

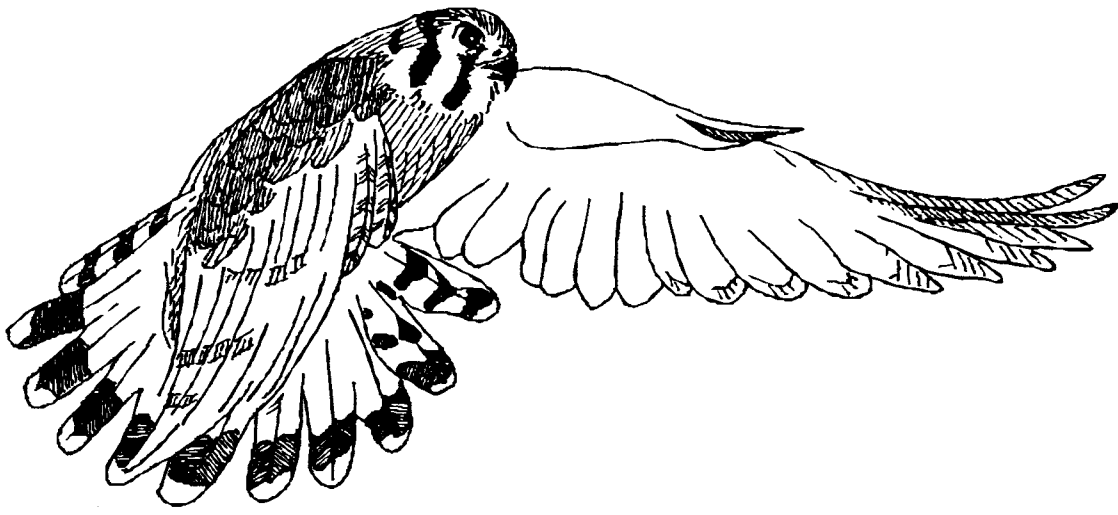


Onondaga Audubon Society

1951-2001

Golden Anniversary

9/01



Onondaga Audubon Society

Fifty Year History of the Society 1951-2001

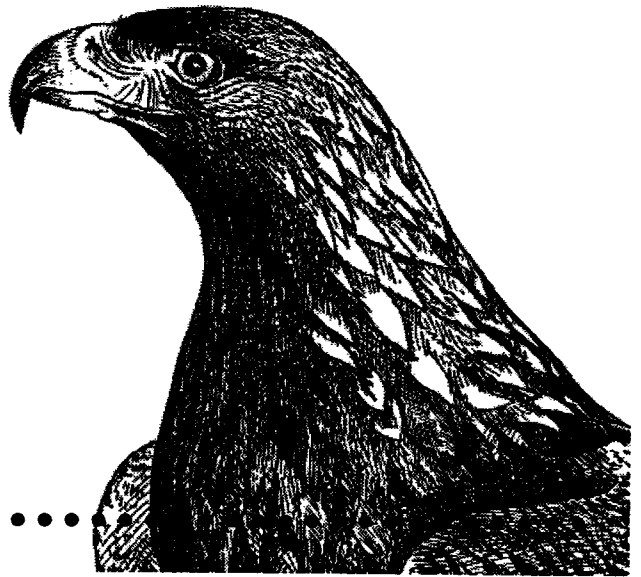
Summarized by Dorothy W. Crumb

Cover drawing by Cynthia J. Page

Text drawings by Cynthia J. Page and Sue D. Adair



Introduction



Dr. Robert Long decided that it would be a good idea to try to locate all of the back issue of The Onondaga Audubon Society's (OAS) newsletter, *The Kestrel*, and have them bound to be used as reference material. Bob put notices in the current newsletters and rounded up some of the copies. But there were many still missing. Todd and Terry Farnham had donated quite a few of the older ones. In June 1986, Bob Carpenter, a charter member, sent a letter stating that he had found a complete set of the first volume of *The Kestrel*. With more advertising, all of the back issues have now been found.

OAS agreed to host the September 2001 Annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. I thought it might be a good idea to skim through the complete set of *Kestrels* and write a short history of our club. "Short" was not to be. As I started reading the first bits of information from the early years, there was too much fascinating information. As it turned out, it was not what to put in the history, but what to leave out. It was not just a history of Onondaga Audubon Society because the club had been active in state and national conservation issues from the very beginning. To follow along on some of these issues, such as the use and banning of DDT, shows how difficult

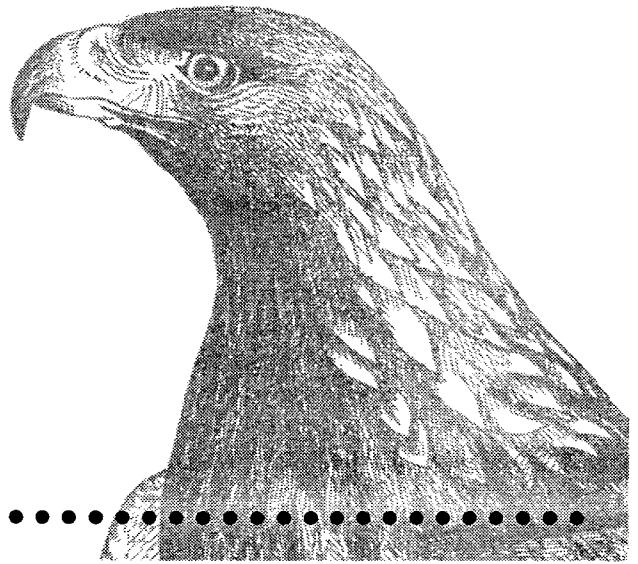
it is to achieve your goal. Time and again, things that were thought to have been straightened out had to be fought all over again.

It was fun for me to read of the beginnings of OAS and the people involved at that time and through the later years. Many of them I remembered, many I never knew. I hope the rest of you who read this will get the same pleasure from the memories as I did.

My thanks go to Bob Long for collecting *The Kestrels* in the first place and for reading what I have written to help find the errors and omissions. James Throckmorton also reviewed the entire history and helped with discussions and new ideas. Cindy Page, Sue Adair, and Karen L. Allaban-Confer gave us permission to reuse some of their drawings from past issues. Cindy also gave us the drawing of the Golden Eagle for the cover of this history. Barbara Reuter had the major task of setting up the pages into an attractive and readable document.

As we continue into this 21st Century, we wonder what the future will present to the members of Onondaga Audubon Society.

—Dorothy W. Crumb



1951-1960

In 1951 Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of England for the third time and the Onondaga Audubon Society came into being. Many of us don't remember the Winston Churchill days except through books about his life. But all of us know of Onondaga Audubon Society because after 50 years and a myriad of faithful workers, Onondaga Audubon still exists.

As often happens, little was put in writing about the organization of a fledgling group of birdwatchers. David Beebe, Benjamin Burtt, Marge Mathis, Marge Rusk, and Bill Minor have been asked to share their recollections. Bill Minor said that a group of birdwatchers were thinking of forming a club. Mrs. G. W. Platt had connections with National Audubon and invited Carl Buchheister, then President of National Audubon, to speak to the group about forming a Chapter. After the presentation, Bill Minor, Dr. Walter Spofford, and others met at the home of Colonel and Mrs. Platt. Then a formative meeting was held at Lyman Hall at Syracuse University and Dr. Josiah Lowe of the Forestry School was elected President. A discussion was held to select a name and symbol for Onondaga Audubon Society. Some members wanted a passerine while others preferred a raptor. A sort of compromise was reached by selecting the smallest of our raptors, *The Kestrel*.

The Onondaga Audubon Society newsletter, *The Kestrel*, was first published in March 1955. Prior to that, there were mimeographed lists of programs and field trips. In 1952 Mr. Stanton Ernst, Fritz Scheider (in charge of the May 17th "Big Day"), Dr. Ben Burtt, and Mr. Paul Paquette led field trips to Three Rivers Game Management Area, Sandy Pond, and Big Moose Lake. On Sunday, December 28, 1952, volunteers worked on the Christmas Census. They were asked to "work all day (if possible)." This was the fourth Christmas Count for the newly formed organization. There were 10 observers and they found 39 species of wintering birds. *Today, although there are more than 3*

times as many observers, species numbers are only in the low 70s.

On December 7, 1952, Walter Spofford led a field trip to "The Big Woods" at Green Lakes State Park. *We can't help but wonder which part of Green Lakes that would have been—all of the woods are big in that park today.*

In 1953, the first list of officers was printed: President, Mr. William Minor, Vice President, Dr. Benjamin Burtt, Treasurer, Mr. George Courtney, Corresponding Secretary, Beryl Dunning, and Recording Secretary, Dr. Fritz Scheider.

Audubon Screen Tour lectures, which became a very popular program, were first mentioned for January 18, 1954 in Utica and Buffalo. At Utica College, a Mr. Howard Cleaves spoke about "Animals at Night in Color." He was followed by Roger Tory Peterson (*remember him?*) on February 14th.

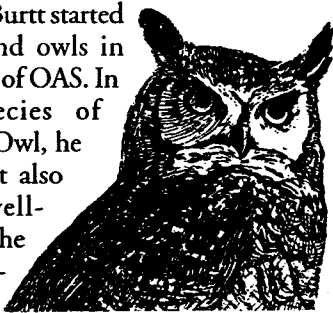
Officers for 1954-5 were Fritz Scheider, Lee Chamberlaine, Walter Spofford, Marge Mathis and George Courtney.

Volume 1, Number 1 of *The Kestrel* made its debut in March 1955. There was no editor named. It was an 8-page mimeographed publication and listed the officers, programs and field trips. People had been asking about various places to go birding in Central New York. The first article describing one of these areas appears in this issue with Bill Minor's description of birding in Camillus Valley. Also included were results of a waterfowl census with 14 species of ducks, coot and two species of grebes. The annual Christmas Count on Dec. 26, 1954 had a record of 22 observers who located 51 species of birds. "The highlights included one Lapland Longspur from the far north and one Red-bellied Woodpecker from the south. This latter find was discovered in November by Lee Chamberlaine in Onondaga Valley and could still be found in the swampy woods at the west end of Roswell Road 2 months later, and we hope he

will remain as a permanent resident. A pair have been known to reside in the dead woods at the upper end of the Montezuma refuge, but this is our first local record."

In 1955, "after a number of years of procrastination, doubts, fears and lack of money," Onondaga Audubon Society contracted for the Audubon Screen Tour lecture series. There were to be five from October 1955 through April 1956. These lectures were "color motion pictures, personally presented by men and women outstanding in the field of natural history and conservation." Season tickets for 5 lectures cost \$4.00. The cost of presenting the tour was approximately \$900 a year. *A big step to take.*

Dr. Ben Burtt started hawks and owls in members of OAS. In five species of Horned Owl, he Dr. Burtt also his well-umn in the Post Stan-has con-



banding young nests located by 22 active nests of hawks and Great banded 45 young. started writing known bird col-Sunday Syracuse dard in 1955. It tinued ever since.

The Kingbird is the publication of Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The Federation needed more members to keep solvent. Dues then were \$2.00 a year. *Now \$18.00. Not bad for 45 years.*

In July there were reports of field trip results. This included the May "Spring Run" that had disappointing warm calm weather so no great migrant wave developed. There were six groups of observers who tallied 145 species, with the single party high of 127.

In June a trip to Sandy Pond in northern Oswego County on Lake Ontario produced the rare record of a pair of breeding Piping Plover with a nest and two eggs.

The July 1955 issue mentioned the publication of the first OAS Species Status Checklist. An interesting list of Spring Hawk Migration with a total of 1982 raptors, including 888 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 900 Broad-winged Hawks, no eagles. There is no location given for this count.

In the December 1955 issue, Fritz Scheider wrote a paragraph about "tolling" a Red-throated Loon. He and Lee Chamberlaine started waving a red handkerchief. After 3 minutes of waving, the bird began swimming toward them and 7 minutes later was within 40 feet of them. When they stopped waving the "toll", the bird dove and began to swim away. They resumed the tolling and the bird again swam to them. Anyone have the patience to try this? Fritz's comment was "Ask not for whom the hanky tolls, it tolls for..."

A note was made that "in the past two years, Carolina Wrens have moved into the area. Recent winters have favored these

birds, inasmuch as there was not much prolonged, heavy snow covering their feeding grounds." *Forty five years later, the same weather conditions forecast the rise and fall of numbers of Carolina Wrens in this area.*

A stamp on this December 1955 issue cost 2 cents and had a picture of Jefferson.

On Friday, April 13, 1956, Charles Broley, the well-known bander of Bald Eagles spoke to OAS. He started banding eagles in Florida when he was 60 and was still banding in 1955 at the age of 76.



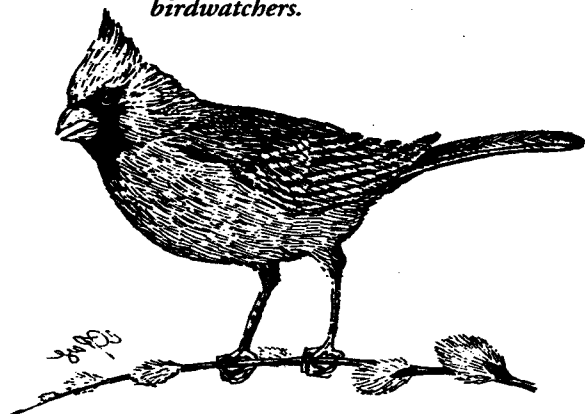
An in-teresting note on the Audubon Screen Tours for the 1955-56 season. Costs, including the tour itself, rent of hall, tickets, phone calls and secretarial expenses were \$1,377.41. Income from the sale of tickets was \$1,416.60, for a profit of \$39.19. *That was a lot of work for such small profit. But education of the public may have been worthwhile.*

It was announced that William Minor and Miss Maureen Lavers would be married on March 2, 1957 in England. *Many of you remember the Minor's, Bill was a member of OAS from the beginning until they moved to Virginia where he is still an active birder. He also wrote a widely read nature article under the name of Senex.*

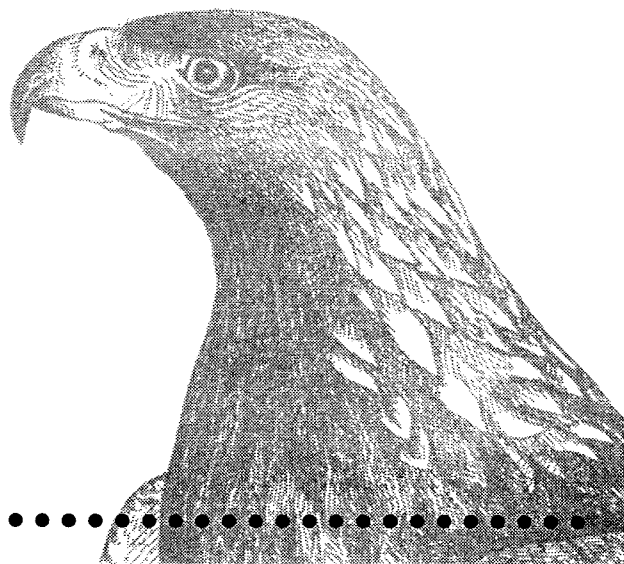
Another famous speaker, Dr. Arthur Allen from Cornell University, presented the March 26th Audubon Screen Tour.

In 1957 profits from the Audubon Screen Tours were used to send two elementary school teachers to Audubon Camp. The total cost was \$240—a *very worthwhile program that continues today.*

During 1957 and 1958, the records show only meetings and field trips and a few birding locations. *The Kestrel* was continued in 1959. In January and February that year, there were at least six Long-eared Owls roosting in Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse. *This was a great treat for birdwatchers.*



1961-1970



In Volume 7, No. 2, of *The Kestrel*, probably published some time in 1961, there is an intriguing note by Lona Thurber and D. Ackley: "How would you like to see a wide variety of land birds while seated comfortably on a cushioned stone? To watch, without developing 'warbler neck', thrushes, vireos, sparrows. Then 'the spring' off Mt. Hope Road near Oneida is the place to go. Here, from the middle of May until late July, the birds flock in to use the small pools and rivulets which flow from the hillside spring, in a natural wooded spot. Select almost any warm sunny afternoon and you can expect to see from 20 to 30 species in a couple of hours." *What pleasure that must have been. Unfortunately, the road was later widened and eliminated this viewing spot.*

In the September 1961 *Kestrel*, there is the first conservation article that related to an area away from our Central New York territory. It told of the possibility of building ski tows and trails in a wilderness area on Hunter Mountain in the Catskills.

Mr. Paul Paquette of Oneida had a pair of Cardinals bring a fledgling to his feeder on September 16, 1960 for one of the first breeding records of this southern species for the eastern end of Oneida Lake.

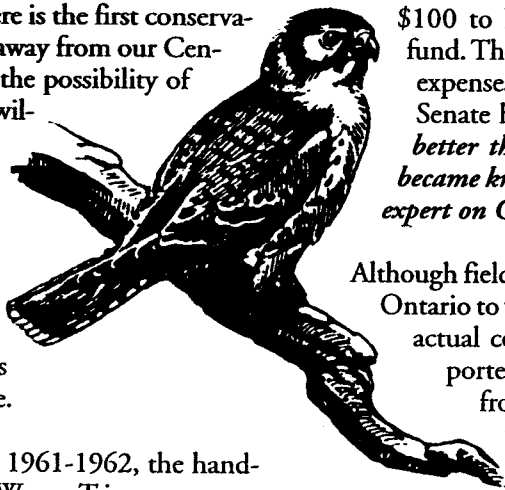
In the fall and winter program for 1961-1962, the handsome drawing of a Kestrel by H. Wayne Trimm appears. *H. Wayne Trimm was art editor of the New York State Conservationist for many years and donated his original drawing for use in The Kestrel.*

In spring 1962 it was mentioned that there were three bills before congressional committees to give the Golden Eagle

federal protection. *Another success story that still had many hurdles to overcome.*

The Kestrel was again resumed in 1962-1963 with Marge Rusk as editor.

A Boreal Owl was found by Marge Rusk in Centerville, which is east of Pulaski on the north side of the Salmon River, Oswego County. Other species of note found in 1962 were two White-fronted Geese, a European Teal, and a White-eyed Vireo, all first sightings for Region 5. Rare, but not firsts, were Worm-eating Warbler and a Little Blue Heron.



More conservation issues were reported. OAS donated \$100 to National Audubon Society's sanctuary fund. They also agreed to pay Dr. Walter Spofford's expenses to go to Washington to testify at the Senate hearings on the Golden Eagle bill. *Who better than "Spof," as everyone knew him. He became known throughout the United States as the expert on Golden Eagles.*

Although field trips were listed as early as 1958 to Lake Ontario to watch for hawks, the following is the first actual count. In spring 1962 David Peakall reported, "The best hawk flight ever recorded from our hawk watching area near Mexico was observed this spring." In five days, April 22 through 28, a total of 15,014 hawks were tallied. *Although it wasn't named, was that the beginning of Derby Hill?*

In 1962 there were several unusual birds reported. A Common Raven was shot in Madison County, the first recorded in recent years. A Hawk Owl was found in Peterboro, Madison County by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Church. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at a feeder at Sandy

Pond and a Black-billed Magpie was found at Highland Forest by Jean Propst and Betty Starr. Both the warbler and magpie were new for Region 5.

New birds for the Region in 1963 were a Gyrfalcon seen by John Haugh and Ernest Willoughby at Derby Hill (the first time the hawk lookout was actually called Derby Hill). A Clay-colored Sparrow was found by Fritz Scheider, David Peakall, and Marge Rusk. Also in 1963 was the first breeding record for Orchard Oriole. The nest was found by Ed Scheible on a farm in Sherrill.

A list of people who helped with an exhibit of "Useful Birds of New York State" included Jean Propst who made a "decorative and informative New York State map of birdwatching places," Dorothy McIlroy of Ithaca and OAS members Dorothy Ackley, Mary Woolley, Hubert Ives, Eunice Eagan, James Eagan, Betty Starr, Edward Patterson, Bill Minor, Irma Twomey, Maude Bitz, Ted Dittrich, and Marge Mathis.

In 1963 Allen D. Cruickshank was among the speakers for Audubon Wildlife Films.

Even as late as 1964, Derby Hill is listed in Field Trips as the "hawk lookout near Oswego on Lake Ontario."

The winter and spring program for 1964 mentions that the annual picnic will be abandoned. Instead, there would be a dinner meeting to install officers. Cost would be \$1.50 to \$2.00.

It was noted that Arthur H. Allen, founder and long associated with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, died on January 17 1964.

John Haugh, who did one of the first studies of hawk migration at "Derby Hill" listed Golden Eagle in March and a Peregrine Falcon in April. Also found in 1964 were a female Harlequin Duck in Oswego, Bohemian Waxwings, and an unusual number of Dickcissels—three at the Farnham's feeder on Onondaga Hill from December 22 to early January, one in Marcellus, and one in Oneida in late March. Also found were a male Barrow's Goldeneye on Oneida Lake and six breeding plumage Franklin's Gulls on the Seneca River floodlands near Montezuma.

In 1964, OAS was granted a charter as a non-profit membership corporation by the State of New York. The news was presented in *The Kestrel* by Hugh Ives under the title *Inc.*

The editor mentions the fact that four Ruffs had been found at Onondaga Lake in 1964. There had been one a year since 1960. *This bird became an extreme rarity after Onondaga Lake became too overgrown with Phragmites*

to have landing places for shorebirds. A good reason for habitat restoration.

A Laughing Gull found by Jean Propst at Onondaga Lake was the first since 1954. Two ravens passed over Derby Hill in April.

"Do you know the difference between an ornithologist and a punster? The one is a birdwatcher and the other is a wordbotcher—from Gordon Meade of Rochester, who is both."

David Peakall mentioned in *The Kingbird* that the House Finch was spreading in New York State. "The Audubon Christmas Counts show a hundred fold increase on Long Island for the last ten years and a 50% increase from 1962 to 1963 for the eastern United States as a whole." When the October 1964 *Kestrel* was printed, there was no record for the House Finch in Region 5.

Dr. David Peakall was one of the first scientists to discover eggshell thinning in various raptors and associate it with pesticides, particularly DDT. His research was primarily responsible for the banning of DDT. Dr. Peakall is now retired and has returned to his native England.

On June 11, 12 and 13, 1965 The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs held its annual meeting in Syracuse. Bill Minor was chairman. At the meeting, Mr. John Bull was selected editor of a proposed State Bird Book. His previous publication was *The Birds of New York City*. *John Bull's subsequent book, Birds of New York State was published in 1974.*

In the November 1965 issue, the editor welcomed the Oneida Bird Club, organized "a little over a year ago under the sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Schultz's Bird World Shop in Sherrill" as a new club within the boundaries of Region 5.

Mr. John Mose, manager of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, spoke of the decline of Bald Eagles at Montezuma—probably due to DDT poisoning. He traced the decline from a breeding pair, through unsuccessful nesting in the late 1950s, to a lone bird frequenting the nest for a time in spring of 1965. The nest blew down in a November 1st windstorm.

Marge Rusk reported a massive Brant flight at Derby Hill on October 23rd. *This has since become a regular fall phenomenon for birdwatchers to observe.*

On November 21, 1965 Marge Rusk found her second Boreal owl in Region 5 in a tree at the edge of Nine Mile Point Road in Oswego County. *OAS now manages this area as Noyes Sanctuary.*

The April 23, 1966 field trip was listed as follows. "Field trip to Derby Hill (Syracuse University owned)." *Dr. Tom Cade was instrumental in the purchase of Derby Hill by Syracuse University. He convinced the Chancellor that this was an important hawk migration area and that Syracuse University would only act as a temporary owner until funds could be raised to transfer the area to an environmental organization.*

The price of the OAS banquet, including tip, had escalated to \$3.25 for chicken and biscuits. It was held at Sherman's Restaurant on Wyoming Street. The program was a collection of slides brought by various members.

Remember this summer when traveling. Take only pictures. Leave only footprints.

In Ted Dittrich's *Report from our Outgoing President*, he told of several conservation issues that OAS had worked on, including air and water pollution problems, work with Onondaga Nature Centers, Inc., and OAS exhibits at New York Foresters' Association fourth annual meeting and at a Flower Show sponsored by the Women's Garden Club of Baldwinsville.

He closed with, "In summary, we have continued to have fun at our meetings and field trips while seriously contributing to the benefit of the community."

The most unusual bird on the 1966 list was a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker found at Cedarville by Kenneth Hanson on April 29th. The unusual northern woodpecker stayed until May 22nd. This was the first region record of this species outside of the Adirondacks. Other unusual species were Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, 13 Golden Eagles over Derby Hill, and a Western Meadowlark near Otisco Lake, a Hoary Redpoll, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

The speaker for the December 7, 1966 OAS meeting was Dr. Tom Cade, then a professor at Syracuse University. *In addition to aiding in the purchase of Derby Hill, Dr. Cade became well known to the bird world when he began breeding Peregrine Falcons in the hawk barn at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.*

Unusual birds in fall 1966 were the first Region record of Eared Grebe, a male Harlequin Duck, a fresh dead Black-legged Kittiwake found by Chris Spies on the Oswego Christmas Count,

a worm-eating Warbler in Pompey by Ferd LaFrance, Prairie Warblers, a Connecticut Warbler, a Clay-colored Sparrow, and a Dickcissel.

The cost of chicken and biscuits for the annual banquet increased from \$2.50 to \$3.45. A postage stamp on *The Kestrel* was four cents.

In September 1967, Michael Thomas, a visiting professor at Syracuse University from England, was Conservation Chairman. He wrote of endangered wetlands in Onondaga County. "Sanitary landfill methods are not sanitary and involve the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources. If sanitary landfill methods are used to solve the refuse disposal problem, by 1990 there will be virtually no marshland or swamp left in Onondaga County—and this includes the part of Cicero Swamp not owned by the State."

On January 3, 1968, the speaker was Mr. Frank Thompson, Canal Museum Director, who presented, *The Erie Canal—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*, an illustrated program dealing with the "proposed" Erie Canal Park.

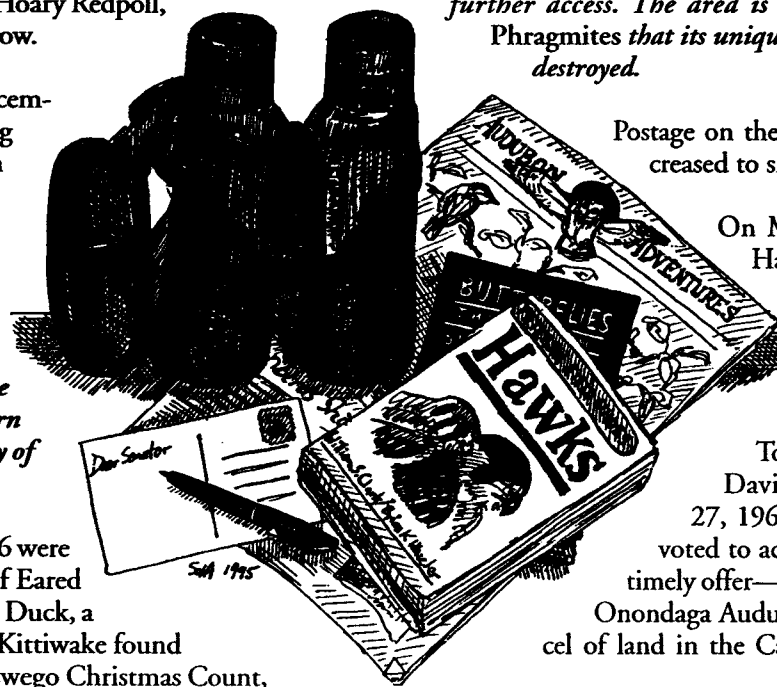
Two items of historical importance were noted by the president, David Beebe. On November 20, 1967 at an Onondaga Nature Centers meeting, it was stated that a proposed five-year lease, to be granted by Onondaga County, would be signed early in 1968. The Nature Center would be constructed by the County, with financial aid for a full-time naturalist, etc. to come from private sources. *The early beginnings for Beaver Lake Nature Center.*

A letter was sent requesting that consideration be made to retain White Lake (Dewitt), as a conservation area in view of a proposed highway bypass in that area. *In the late 1990s, White Lake was sold to a private individual who allows no further access. The area is now so overgrown with Phragmites that its unique habitat is almost totally destroyed.*

Postage on the February 1968 issue increased to six cents.

On March 6, 1968, John R. Haugh of Derby Hill spoke at the OAS meeting on *Hawk Migration in the Eastern Great Lakes Region.*

To quote from the president David Beebe, "On February 27, 1968 the Board of Directors voted to accept a very generous and timely offer—permission granted to the Onondaga Audubon Society to use a parcel of land in the Camillus Valley for nature



sanctuary purposes. This area comprised approximately 90 acres of land along Nine Mile Creek."

"Post-mortems in England's tragic Torrey Canyon accident have added evidence that detergents cannot be the answer to an oiled sea problem." Dr. Beebe goes on to say that the detergents themselves were more deadly to marine life than the oil spill that resulted when the Torrey Canyon struck a reef in Cornwall, England.

This historical mention of locating Derby Hill appeared in the April 1968 *Kestrel*: "From reading the account in Eaton (1910) of hawk migrations at Rochester, Fritz Scheider and Harry Van Beurden deduced that a greater concentration than that should occur at the southeast corner of Lake Ontario and, in 1954, discovered it—at Derby Hill, whose geographic location plus the ridge and lakeshore bluff which give a broad view, make it the ideal spring watching place." *In July 2000, Orlo Derby visited the hill and spoke to Walt Stewart. Derby Hill got its name from Orlo who owned much of the hill property in the 1940s. When the National Geodetic survey was made of the area, a permanent marker was placed on the bluff and the topo maps that were developed as a result of the survey carry the name Derby for that marker. When Fritz Scheider and others were looking for a name, they chose Derby Hill from the topo map. Orlo Derby is a retired professor from Brockport State University near Rochester.*

In the winter of 1967-1968, there was a finch incursion in the Adirondacks. There were large numbers of the following species on four separate trips, December 2nd through February 25th: Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, and Red Crossbill. Only a few of each species were found outside of the Adirondacks. Nearly 100 Red Crossbills were found dead in the roads, mostly in December. "The 'cross' bills were half 'left-beaked' and half 'right-beaked.' (Right-beaked means that the maxilla crosses down over the mandible to the right.)"

David Beebe, outgoing President, spoke about the 90-acre wildlife preserve in Camillus along 9 Mile Creek. A map was included in *The Kestrel* to show the entrance to the trails that were being constructed.

Edward Sibley recounts the banding of one of two fledgling Great Horned Owls in Oakwood Cemetery by Ben Burt. As he climbed toward the two young owls, the adult attacked him four times. On the fourth try, the owl caught Ben in the chin and cheek with her talons. Although he was able to capture and band one of the young, Ben had to visit a hospital to have stitches in his cheek. He had been banding owls for 15 years and never had been attacked before.

April 1969: The Nature Conservancy was in the process of acquiring Eldorado Shores, on the eastern shore of Lake

Ontario. It covers 250 acres, including 3,600 feet of shoreland—an excellent habitat for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. OAS contributed \$1,000 toward the land purchase.

In the August 1969 issue, Michael Thomas summarized his position as Conservation Chairman. He urged the banning of the use of DDT, and other persistent pesticides and printed The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs resolution to this effect.

In September 1969, a letter from Stuart Hosler, President, mentioned that the 14 original members had grown to over 260. "Onondaga Audubon is no longer just a group of 'bird watchers.' Pleasurable as it may be, going afield for the unknown species must be complemented by our collective efforts in pursuing our bigger objective, 'Conservation Plus.'"

Under Conservation Notes, Chairman James Karp reported that the Beaver Lake Nature Center had started well. With the county appropriation of \$200,000, road, parking lot, and maintenance buildings were under way. It was hoped that bids for construction of an interpretive center could be let in the fall.

Half the money to purchase Eldorado Shores in Jefferson County had been raised by Nature Conservancy. Results of a questionnaire sent to all members showed considerable interest in conservation matters.

In "Fall 1969 Field Notes" Dorothy Crumb reported 8,000 Brant on October 21st and another 5,000 in four hours on Wednesday at Derby Hill. There was a great look at a Parasitic and a Pomarine Jaeger. Also on the 21st there were some landbirds, a Boreal Chickadee, late Barn Swallow, and Northern Oriole.

January 1970: "The most encouraging news was the announcement of a Federal ban on the use of DDT in any-

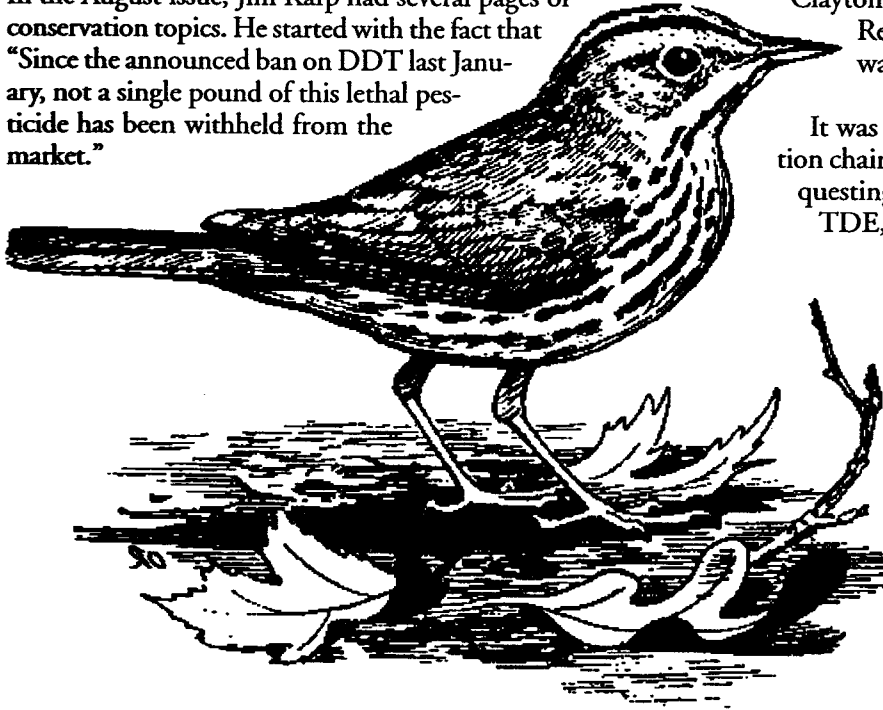


thing over which the Federal government has control. State and local bans remained important goals.”

An Endangered Species Bill had been passed by both the House and Senate and a billion dollars authorized by the Senate under the Clean Water Act.

James Karp reported on a number of important conservation bills proposed in the House and Senate in the April 1970 issue of *The Kestrel*. More and more work was being done in this field as the public became aware of conservation problems.

In the August issue, Jim Karp had several pages of conservation topics. He started with the fact that “Since the announced ban on DDT last January, not a single pound of this lethal pesticide has been withheld from the market.”



Beaver Lake had hired a teacher-naturalist and many plans were under way.

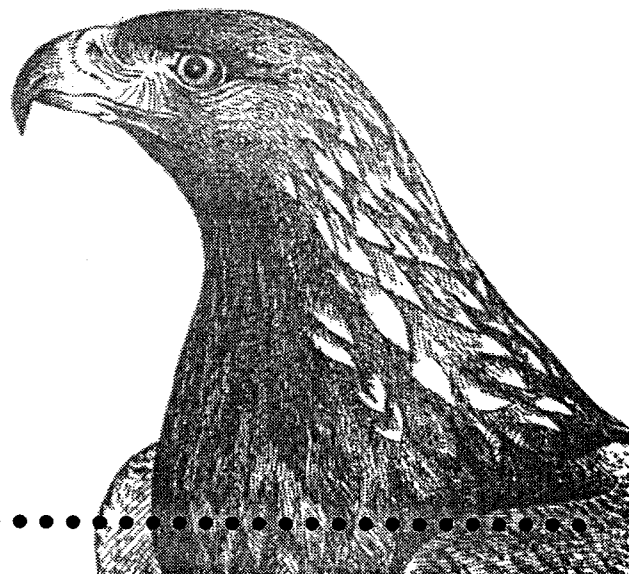
There was discussion about where OAS should focus its attention on conservation matters—courtroom, vigilante committees, land buying, or other alternatives.

It was decided to start a new numbering system for *The Kestrel Newsletter* and to include an Annual Report once a year. Therefore, the December 1970 issue was Volume 1 Number 1. Members were asked to turn in interesting items for the spring annual report.

Clayton Hardy, manager of Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and a good friend to OAS members was transferred to Alaska.

It was requested by Michael Thomas, conservation chairman, that members should write DEC requesting that various pesticides, including DDT/TDE, not be permitted to be used.

1971-1980



The column written by Dorothy Crumb, "Birds Seen and Expected" continued regularly in 1971 as it had since starting in fall of 1969.

The March/April 1971 issue had a conservation article about a hearing on February 24, 1971 concerning the Burnet Park Zoo presently managed by the City of Syracuse. James Karp, Robert Long, and Michael Thomas spoke of being concerned about the conditions at the zoo. One solution was to close it. Another was to "investigate the possibility of building a new county facility incorporating conservation and educational facilities...Burnet Park now costs the city taxpayer over \$100,000 annually and both animals and visitors much anguish, pain, and discomfort."

This is a wonderfully successful piece of history since we all know that Syracuse now has a world-famous first class zoo which is breeding rare mammals and housing and caring for animals in much healthier surroundings.

There were also conservation articles about nonreturnable bottles and the banning of household detergents with large phosphate contents.

In May-June, Dorothy Crumb reported that a male Tufted Duck had been seen at Nine-mile Point on Lake Ontario. It was a first record for the Great Lakes. A new "hot line" was started to notify birders of unusual species. Ann Brosseau agreed to head the new service.

In the August-September Conservation report by Robert Long, the Adirondack Park Agency was formed. DDT and other pesticides were finally banned, with the law to take effect January 1, 1972.

Another rise in postage to 8 cents.

In 1971 it was agreed to print an Annual Report each year. These were printed separately from the newsletter in smaller page size.

In the first issue, September 1971, President James Karp lists the many goals of the society over the past few years. Some of the results had been discouraging. The County had not worked on a feasibility study for a county zoo. A commercial recycling operation had been doomed by strong town opposition. A DeWitt drumlin could not be saved. *OAS was ahead of its time.*



On December 29, 1970, OAS had received a gift of 5.7 acres of swamp-muckland in the Town of Spafford. This property was originally purchased by the Reverend Fred Lane and presented to Audubon by his family.

The 90 acres leased along Nine-mile Creek in Camillus was to have some improvement done on the trails and bridges by local Boy Scouts.

The \$500 profit from the wildlife films was donated to Beaver Lake. Dorothy Dawley presented total expenses for the year of \$2,200 with an income of \$2,235.

There were several listings of birds published in the annual report: Big Run, Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Counts, and Waterfowl Count. There was also a list of officers and a complete list of members. *These listings have continued to the present.*

In the October/November 1971 issue of *The Kestrel*, Audubon was working on getting town and village conservation councils. The towns of Dewitt, Marcellus, Camillus, LaFayette, Skaneateles, and North Syracuse, and the village of Fayetteville were already on the way. *OAS members served on several committees: Jim Karp in North Syracuse, Bob Long in Syracuse, and David Beebe in Camillus.*

President James Karp served on an environmental committee appointed to advise the County on preserving wetlands. At least 30 different wetlands were included.

A bill was recommended to the House to provide nationwide protection for all birds of prey.

In the December issue, Robert Long states that the owner is requesting a zone change to build camps at the north end of Labrador Pond. Since the area is of great geological, botanical, and scenic value, Bob mentioned a fight to preserve the pond.

A vote was to be taken on December 1, 1971 on the proposed constitution and bylaws for Onondaga Audubon Society. A copy of the constitution was included in the issue.

This quotation by Ferdinand Magellan (1519) was printed under the heading, "No Comment." "We traversed 4,000 leagues in the ocean. ...We did not discover any land, except two desert islands; on these we saw nothing but birds and trees, for which reason we named them the Unfortunate Islands."

In February 1972, Connie Komarek spoke of several areas with environmental problems—Rams Gulch, Split Rock, and Clay Swamp, and what was being done at each location.

In April 1972, there was the first mention of "Save the County." OAS with Onondaga Nature Centers, Inc., Clean Air Committee of the TB and Respiratory Diseases Association, and Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation District were organizing a walkathon to "Save the County" on Earth Day April 22nd. Such a walk had been discussed by James Karp, Bob Long, and Jon Bart on the return trip from Albany where they had attended an environmental meeting. There were four designated routes to walk throughout the county. Some areas being examined for possible purchase were Clay Marsh, Baltimore Woods, Labrador Pond, Whiskey Hollow, Old Fly, Carpenter's Pond, and Pumpkin Hollow.

President Nixon signed an executive order restricting the use of poisons for predator control. Already there had been pressure to withdraw the order.

There was a discussion of oil leases on the Atlantic seaboard and a Wilderness Act to save millions of acres of public land.

Dorothy Crumb reported three western accidentals over this winter: Harris' Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Varied Thrush.

This quotation closed the April/May issue of *The Kestrel*: "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." Isaiah 5:8.

A list of 30 important natural areas were submitted to the city/county planning agency for inclusion in the county environmental plan. No Deposit, No Return appeared to be a temporary dead issue.

A guide to birding in Onondaga County had been written and illustrated by Dorothy Crumb and printed for sale at 50 cents a copy.

On June 5, 1972, the county legislature approved a law creating a county environmental management council. A year ago there had been no environmental advisory councils. Now there were eight at the municipal level with Manlius and Tully nearly formed.

The Burnet Park Zoo had numerous improvements. The new director, Jack Gray had visions of the zoo becoming an ecologically oriented educational facility.

Webster's Pond (the Rand Tract) is a 90-acre site on the south side of the city that has been declared "forever wild" by the Syracuse City Council.

The Walk-a-Thon 1972 raised \$20,000 and ended in the purchase of Baltimore Woods in Marcellus.

OAS contributed \$1,500 to Beaver Lake Nature Center for 1971-1972. They were still fighting to save Labrador Pond. They were active in presenting a list to the State of areas in Onondaga County that should be purchased with monies from the Environmental Bond Act.

There was a marked increase in the number of people attending meetings, with 60 to 75 present each meeting night and a high of better than 90 people.



SAVE THE COUNTY, INC.

Onondaga Audubon Society finally received federal tax-exempt status.

After four years, Bill Minor resigned as chair for the Wildlife Films. For the first time, these films had a deficit of just over \$200. Bill felt that the quality of the films was down and there were so many excellent nature programs on television. Bob Byers took over the chairmanship.

David Beebe reported the placing of a sign at the Fred G. Lane Sanctuary and cleanup work at the Camillus Nine-Mile Creek Sanctuary. An Erie Canal Committee was established in the fall of 1971 to install identity signs and access fences between the towns of Amboy and Memphis, which was to become the Erie Canal Park. *Thirty years later, Dave is still in charge of this park.*

Mike Story, education chairman, reported that although money had been allocated, distribution of Audubon and National Wildlife publicity would not begin because he felt the schools were not prepared to use the material.

The August/September 1972 issue was the first issue mailed with a "nonprofit org." imprint.

In this issue, Dorothy Crumb told of hearing about two orphaned Screech Owls and caring for them temporarily before getting them to a licensed rehabilitator. She also tells of a group going with Ferd LaFrance to a bog in the Adirondacks where both Northern and Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen. *This is the now-famous bog that became known as "Ferd's Bog."*

Audubon Wildlife films were still being shown. Season tickets were now \$6.00 and \$1.50 for one film. There were 5 a year.

Announcement was made that a new group of the Sierra Club, the Iroquois Group, had been set up for Central New York with headquarters in Syracuse.

Jon Bart discussed the \$1.15 million Environmental Bond Issue and the recently passed Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill in the October issue.

Another species of bird new to Central New York was discovered by Paul Liable from Shackleton Point on the south shore of Oneida Lake. He had seen a Wheatear. Several people saw it the following day, September 28th, but then it continued its southbound migration.

Fall of 1972 saw a large migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches and brought a few Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins.

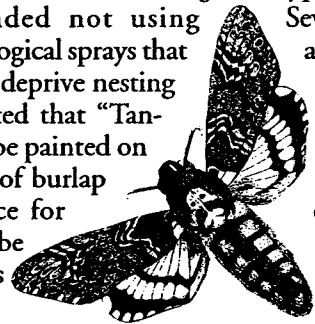
Jon Bart, in the Dec. 72/Jan. 73 issue, stated "Audubon has agreed with Save-the-County, which coordinated last

spring's walk-a-thon, to hold a lease to the 88-acre 'Old Fly' Marsh in Onondaga County, south of Pompey."

With the passage of the Environmental Quality Bond Issue by more than a 2:1 margin, Onondaga County was assured of the expenditure of several hundred thousands of dollars for natural areas in our county.

Karen Slotnick reported that the 1973 Walk to Save the County would be held on May 6th with a goal of \$75,000. Over 250 acres had been preserved as a result of the walk in 1972.

Discussion of the coming Gypsy Moth invasion recommended not using Sevin or other chemical and biological sprays that also kill beneficial insects and deprive nesting birds of food. It was suggested that "Tan-substance, be painted on loose folds of burlap hiding place for caterpillars that could then be collected. Most healthy trees will survive the defoliation.



Onondaga Audubon Society president, Robert Long, reported that many members have branched out into major leadership roles in most of the environmental groups in the county. These included the new Save the County, a direct outgrowth of OAS, which had raised over \$20,000 in 1972 and double that in 1973 to preserve ecologically valuable land.

Derby Hill became our most important land acquisition. The Nature Conservancy had been able to complete the purchase of the original parcel from Syracuse University for \$13,700 and Onondaga Audubon Society wanted to annex the bluff, owned by Mr. Derby, and a piece on the downslope of the hill owned by Mr. Fournier. A new national group of hawkwatchers wanted to hold a meeting in Syracuse in spring of 1974 and have field trips to Derby Hill.

Monthly programs were discussed. It was found that programs presented by people like Mildred Faust and Walter Spofford, who each brought in over 150 people, were successful with pictures of wildflowers and wildlife. Environmental problems as the main topic did not do well. OAS now had 816 members.

The attendance at wildlife films again fell sharply and it was agreed that the films should be canceled.

Also in 1973 OAS members urged legislators to approve the Adirondack Park Agency's Private Land Use and Development Plan. *This was subsequently approved but constantly contested.*

A group of citizens traveled to Binghamton to see a successful municipal recycling center and were analyzing the market for recycled products and the feasibility of organizing a program for Syracuse. Byrne Dairy was congratulated for the continued use of glass bottles. Other businesses have started using recycled bottles and the Rescue Mission was collecting newspapers to be sent to a recycling plant in Rochester.

Standing room only crowds attended public hearings on air pollution, noise control legislation and proposed Niagara Mohawk power lines.

In the August-September 1973 issue, it was reported that the Senate and the House had voted to approve the Alaska pipeline without further study. The vote was very close, 49 to 49 in the Senate, with Vice-President Spiro Agnew casting the deciding vote.

A massive slaughter of 600 eagles, both Bald and Golden, and 500-600 Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks by using poison baited traps was reported in Nevada.

In the same issue of *The Kestrel*, the last paragraph of Dorothy Crumb's *Birds Seen and Expected* article ends: "The big season of fall migration is upon us once more. As each bird passes through headed for some small, warm place to spend the next few months, let him be a reminder that we must keep other places open at this end so that he can return next spring to his tree, his stream, his marsh."

In 1974 the subject of using DDT again reared its ugly head as the House Committee reported a bill that would allow the use of DDT in special cases. It was a panic reaction to the Tussock moth which was causing some problems in Douglas Fir forests in the west.

There was a wild food hors d'oeuvres table at the June banquet prepared by Debbie Boots. There were samplings of wild leek dip, pickled cattails, violet jam, pink sumac drink, and pigweed quiche.

August of 1974 started with the good news that membership had increased to over 1,000. Nearly 200 people attended some meetings. But mixed with the welcome report that the State had used Environmental Bond Act money to buy 2,000 acres of Clay Marsh was the fact that the Town of Clay failed to protect upland areas contiguous to the marsh.

Our concern for the protection of the environmentally unique Labrador Pond area was finally answered. The DEC announced plans to purchase the pond and much of the surrounding land.

Considerable work was accomplished by the Education Committee; Peg Berkinshaw, Joan Leviton, and Betty Horel. There were slide presentations to various youth groups, including the YWCA and Scouts, nature workshops, and help with building bird houses and feeders.

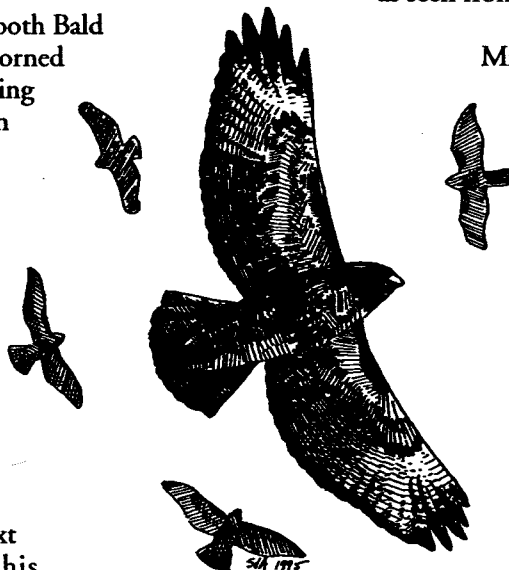
A major item, not only in OAS history, but also affecting hawk migration throughout the United States, was the North American Hawk Migration Conference held in Syracuse April 18-24, 1974 with 300 people in attendance. Representatives came from Canada and all over eastern and central U.S. The guest speaker was Colin J. Pennycuik from Bristol, England, who spoke on African soaring birds as seen from a motor glider.

Michael Harwood from Connecticut, the conference chairman, gave the keynote address, followed by Chandler Robbins with a history of North American hawkwatching.

The Saturday night banquet was in honor of Maurice and Irma Broun. The Brouns were the first curators of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary when hawks were being shot more than they were watched. Everyone felt that without their great efforts there would have been no hawk conference.

Derby Hill came through on Sunday with over 3,000 hawks to show off to the 200-plus visitors. *Few of those visitors will forget the stirring sight of Maurice Broun standing on a picnic table and applauding the soaring Broadwinged Hawks.*

One of the favorite all-time programs presented to OAS was the talk by Captain Perkins on October 2, 1974 "Wings Over Inland Seas." Captain Perkins had been in charge of a ship on the St. Lawrence Seaway for years. One time he was transporting some potted evergreens on the deck and noticed tired migrating birds landing on the trees. He set up a feeding station with trees and a small pond. He would sit in a chair beside the pond and photograph the various species that would take advantage of this moving rest stop. His refuge came to be known as "Perk's National Forest." *Captain Perkins and his wife were overnight guests at my home. We had an early, wet snowstorm that created dense fog. I was nervous about driving to the meeting in the fog. Captain Perkins said, "I've driven in fog hundreds of times. Let me handle it." And he did.*



In the fall of 1974, the Syracuse Commission for the Conservation of the Environment opened a recycling center for solid waste. These materials were the beginning of Syracuse recycling: newspapers, cardboard and other paper, and colored and clear glass. *A quarter of a century later, recycling became mandatory in Onondaga County.*

Many will remember Maude Bitz who died in 1974. She traveled Onondaga County by public transportation or on foot to see unusual birds. She was a member of OAS from its beginning and was active at all of the early meetings.

In January 1975, Marge Rusk and Chris Spies started including various maps and directions for birding in areas in Region 5. In this issue, they presented Oswego Harbor and Shackleton Point.

The president, Karen Slotnick, announced the purchase of nine more acres at Derby Hill and OAS had accepted the deed to the 46-acre Helen Jahn Memorial Area at the top of the hill from The Nature Conservancy. Also, with the help of The Nature Conservancy, OAS would soon assume the deed to a 90-acre sanctuary five miles west of Derby Hill on Lake Ontario. *These 90 acres are presently known as Noyes Sanctuary.*

Dorothy Crumb conducted a short Bird Identification Course for the members and OAS did a five-part series on local birds on Kay Russell's television show.

Conservation Chair, Joan Storey, hoped that stronger strip-mining regulations would be reintroduced in Congress after President Ford had vetoed the last bill. The Clean Air Act was under attack again and the Nuclear Power issue needed further consideration.

Onondaga Audubon members for the fourth year participated in the walk to Save the County. That organization was creating new bylaws and making changes in their structure. A new building at Beaver Lake was dedicated. OAS joined the newly active and environmentally conscious Friends of the Burnet Park Zoo. The Coalition Advocating Protection of the Environment (CAPE) began publishing a newsletter *Central New York Environment*. And members are active in Village, Town, and County Conservation Commissions.

Environmentalists were active in trying to stop weakening amendments to the Federal Pesticide Con-

trol Act. Strip-mining was reported legal in six National Parks and there were imminent plans for stripping in Death Valley and Glacier Ban (Alaska) National Monuments. A bill had been introduced to stop this mining.

Levels of the pesticide DDT have dropped significantly in human and wildlife tissues since it was banned in 1972.

In 1976, the United States celebrated its bicentennial. 200 years is a bit longer than the 25 years that Onondaga Audubon Society had been in existence. And yet it was a proud feat carried on by a group of volunteers interested in the environment.

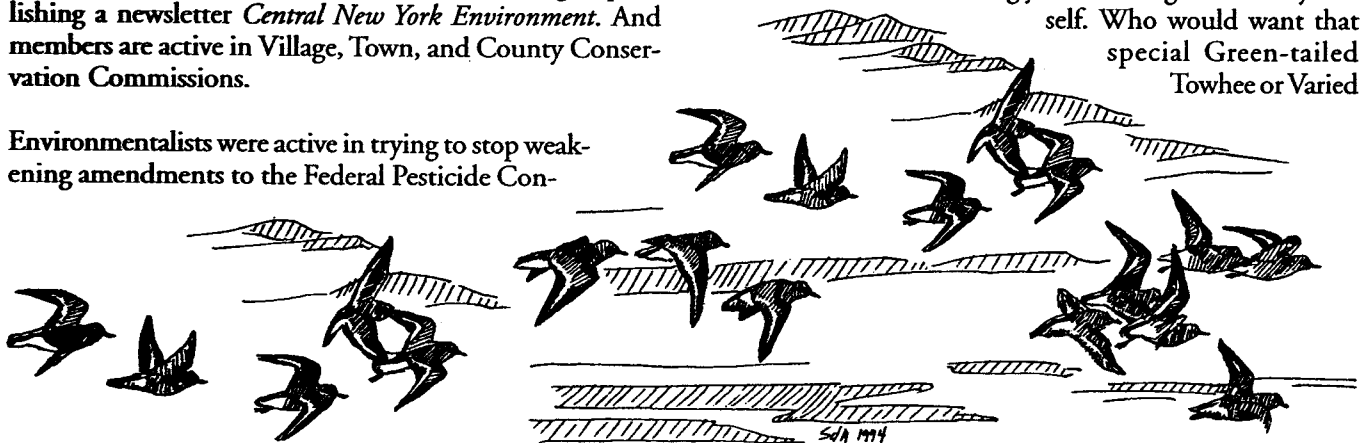
1976 was a very special year for the Onondaga Audubon Society because of The Nature Conservancy gifts of the Derby Hill property and the 90-acre Noyes Sanctuary at Nine Mile Point. This also meant considerably more work for the Sanctuary Committee, including signs, work on trails, trimming of brush, securing picnic tables at Derby Hill, and investigating the possibility of acquiring other parcels of land adjacent to the property.

President David Muir stated, "However, the most salient problem we face always seems to be the same: the need for more people to participate in our committee work." *This problem still exists 25 years later.*

In the spring of 1976, three Centro Bus birding trips were scheduled. Two trips went to Derby Hill and one to area lakes and marshes for migrant waterfowl and shorebirds.

In the Conservation notes, it was stated that the State Environmental Quality Review Act was being contested by industry, labor unions, and some local governments. The Toxic Substance Control Act was moving in Congress. Environmental groups would fight lobbyists efforts to weaken or destroy it.

In the February/March issue of *The Kestrel*, Karen Slotnick wrote a delightful article about how to steal birds from your neighbor. She stated that no bird books gave any directions so it was something you had to figure out for yourself. Who would want that special Green-tailed Towhee or Varied



Thrush a block down the street when you could arrange to keep it in your own yard.

It was announced that meetings to discuss environmental topics such as nuclear power and impact statements prior to our regular meetings had been very successful.

A summary of the activities of the Board of Directors from August 1975 through January 1976 was presented by Janet Muir. The Board protested hunting on Frenchman Island in Oneida Lake and voiced support for preserving woodlots at two schools. They also responded to a *Post Standard* editorial which questioned the ban on the use of DDT. *Was it never to end?*

The same topics came up year after year; the Toxic Substance Control Act was still being blocked by the chemical industry and the Adirondack Park Land Use Plan was still under attack. The nuclear power debate continued.

This quotation from Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac* appeared in the last issue of *The Kestrel* in 1976: "We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Dorothy Crumb reported attending the second Hawk Migration Association conference in Duluth. The organization was formed in Syracuse in 1974 and was trying to raise money to buy a computer to be placed at Hawk Mountain to keep track of hawk migration throughout the United States.

A slightly weakened Toxic Substance Control Act finally passed Congress, but the more stringent amendments to the Clean Air Act failed. The Onondaga County Beverage Container Deposit Law was expected to be voted on soon.

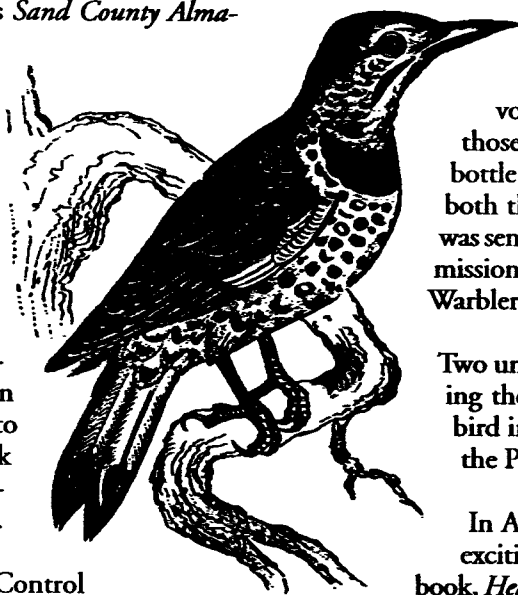
Gerry Smith, working with nine students of SUNY-Oswego, inventoried the Oswego County Coastal area of Lake Ontario in summer of 1976 and presented OAS President, Greg Smith, with a copy of the study. Some of the major recommendations were to ban hunting in Oswego Harbor, to prohibit destruction of the sand dunes protecting Deer Creek Marsh, Town of Pulaski, Oswego County, and to enlighten residents regarding the effects of road-building, logging, motorboat waves, pesticide use, and off-road recreation vehicle use.

The January 1977 issue of *The Kestrel* expressed the hope that Jimmy Carter would be an environmentally favorable president. The returnable bottle bill was defeated by the

County Legislature. It was stated that publication of *The New York Times* required 153 acres of forest and packaging for McDonalds demanded 315 square miles of forest each year.

Under Conservation Notes in the February/March issue, it was reported that North Country Citizens were fighting a 765-kv power line from Massena to Marcy. The Power Authority was going ahead even before hearings on possible hazards.

Maurice Broun was returning to Syracuse to speak at the OAS meeting on May 4, 1977. *Maurice and his wife Irma were the first curators at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania at a time when hawks were being slaughtered rather than watched. The spring 1974 Hawk Conference meeting at Syracuse was dedicated to this wonderful pair of environmentalists.*



Again there was a bill introduced to abolish the State Adirondack Use Plan and turn control over to local governments. Governor Carey favored the 765-kv power line and called those opposing it "troublemakers." State bottle deposit laws have been introduced in both the Senate and the Assembly. A letter was sent to the Central New York Parks Commission regarding cutting of pines in the Pine Warbler nesting area of Selkirk State Park.

Two unusual birds had been discovered during the year. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird in Cicero and a male Lark Bunting at the Peebles' feeder in Oneida.

In August 1977 it was reported that one exciting project was the publishing of the book, *Heartland, a Natural History of Onondaga County, New York*, by Mike Storey. *Looking back on this excellent book about the geology of Onondaga County, it was used in many school classrooms and quickly sold out. Nearly a quarter of a century later, there is talk of republishing. The information this volume contained is timeless.*

OAS was in the process of purchasing a house located at the crest of Derby Hill on property adjacent to our current sanctuary.

It was recommended that Deer Creek Marsh, Town of Pulaski, be purchased by DEC under the Environmental Quality Bond Act. There would be a public hearing on the matter some time in January 1978.

Two pelagic trips were planned by the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. One was scheduled for February 19, 1978 and the other May 20th. The trips would leave from Montauk,

Long Island on the 102-foot Viking Star. Cost of each trip was \$26.00.

Golden Eagles were again being shot in the west. A newspaper favoring sheep and goat raisers was demanding blanket authority to shoot eagles. National Audubon was urging people to write the Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, to stand by the pledge he made to the National Audubon Society convention: "I don't give permits to governors to kill eagles."

In 1978, Connecticut passed a 5 cent deposit law on beer and soft drink containers. Connecticut joined Oregon, Vermont, Michigan, and Maine. *New York State was behind the times.*

The purchase of the house at Derby Hill was finalized in 1978. There was great hope of developing this special sanctuary to its fullest.

Mention was made of our support for the Labrador Pond Unique Area acquisition. The New York State Department of Conservation has acquired about 1,000 acres for preservation in Labrador Hollow and was working on long range management plans for the area.

The Swedish government was the first to ban fluorocarbon aerosols. The United States required a warning label with a phaseout ban proposed for 1979.

The demand for Mike Storey's *Heartland* was so great that it went into a second printing.

Julia Lynch, who was stepping down as membership chairman, was thanked for her hard work and also thanked for continuing to answer the society's telephone with her cheerful voice.

We notice that Cynthia Norderhus had become Cynthia Page, following her marriage to Randy Page during the year.

In the April/May 1978 issue, Marge Mathis wrote a strong editorial about cooperation from members. She spoke of starting with the club in 1951 with a handful of members. This small group all worked together to organize, plan trips, and make OAS a worthwhile organization. Now, just over 25 years later, the organization had over 1,000 members, but only a few active members were doing the work. She followed with a "Help-wanted" list of 15 positions that were looking for workers. *Does this sound like the same old song?*

Over 100 man-hours were spent in the spring of 1978 clearing brush from the trail system at Noyes Sanctuary. Years ago, Mr. Noyes had laid out a system of interconnecting trail loops. The trails measured over three miles and each loop had a different character. Some of the trails had not

been cleared for many years. One trail was being prepared for the coming winter and cross-country skiing.

Steve Miller, a student from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, prepared a map of the trails at Noyes. David Muir started a bird banding station as an educational service. Over 600 birds were banded there in May.

Michael Thomas donated 100 prints of an Osprey by British artist, Allen Hunt. Each person donating \$100 or more to the Derby Hill house fund was given a print. This helped repay the loan to National Audubon Society.



The first of the Derby Hill newsletters was expected to be published and mailed to contributors. Dorothy Crumb designed a logo of a flying Rough-legged Hawk to be used on the newsletter and for a patch.

Conservation Chair Diane Emord reported on many activities of the committee on all levels, from town and county to state and federal. Some of these were the protection of sand dunes at Sandy Pond, closing the El Dorado shoreline to hunters, and plans for a bicycle trail around Onondaga Lake.

The January 1979 issue of *The Kestrel* had a discussion of funds needed for Derby Hill and the accomplishments in the past year. Derby Hill met its goals to repay National Audubon Society for the first year of the loan. The new building was used to house the person doing the hawk census and one educational group. Informational displays had been set up and there were great hopes for further activity during the coming years.

In the same issue there was a description of Noyes Sanctuary by Richard Roberts and a trail map. Dorothy Troike reported on a fall trip to Ferd's Bog in the Adirondacks.

The board also announced that OAS would host the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs meeting in 1981.

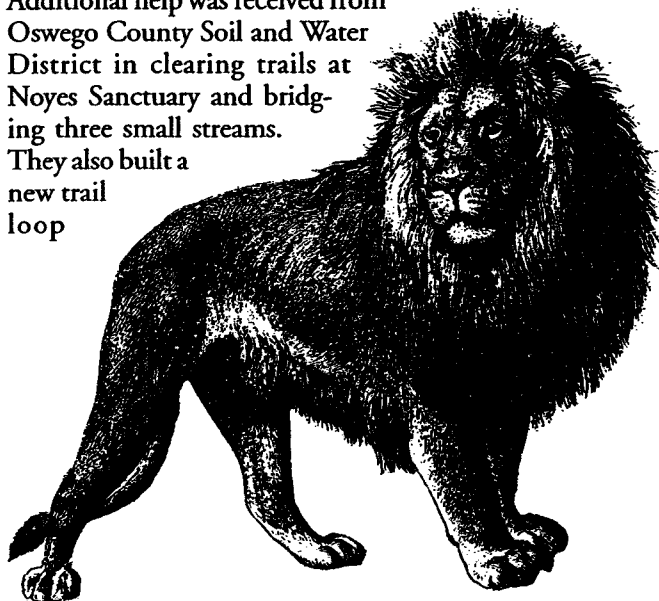
Dorothy Crumb described her trip to Squaw Mountain, west of Denver in the Arapaho National Forest. There she and her husband visited the home of Bob and Margaree Swanlund at 11,500 feet. The walls of their stone house were at least 30 inches thick to withstand the tremendous winds. The deep windowsills were covered with bird seed. It was here that Dorothy saw her 600th species of bird, the Black Rosy Finch.

They had arrived at lunchtime and brought their own sandwiches. They ate in the Swanlund's kitchen with Gray Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers and a flock of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches feeding within inches at the windowsills. When they left, Dorothy was presented with a green card with a picture of a Timber Squirrel and the fire tower. The card read, "This certifies that on 26th of December 1978, Dorothy W. Crumb climbed the Squaw Mountain Lookout Station guarding the Arapaho National Forest against fire and is therefore recognized as a member of the ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF SQUIRRELS. Bob and Margaree Swanland. Elevation 11,500 feet." *One of the many lasting memories, not only of birdwatching, but of the hospitality of other birders.*

In the 1979 Annual Report, President Greg Smith told of special efforts to improve the two sanctuaries on Lake Ontario. Four more lots had been purchased on the bluff adjacent to Derby Hill property, which was now officially known as "Derby Hill Bird Observatory." This purchase would prevent any development which could obstruct observers' views of birds flying in off the lake. There was a spectacular spring count. Greg also announced that the programs and field trips continued their top-notch quality.

Peter A. Berle, past Commissioner of the NYSDEC, spoke at our Annual Banquet and received the "Environmental-ist of the Year" award.

Additional help was received from Oswego County Soil and Water District in clearing trails at Noyes Sanctuary and bridging three small streams. They also built a new trail loop



through a meadow and made plans for a small parking lot. A survey of native wildflowers was begun by a student from Oswego State University.

Gerald Smith took up residence in the house at Derby Hill and counted hawks on a full-time basis from March 1st to May 31st. It was agreed to continue the full-time count each spring. The building was also visited by David Seymour, the National Audubon Regional Representative, and it served as the site of the spring meeting of the Upstate Audubon Council.

It was announced in the October-November 1979 issue that Dave Raboy, Director of Onondaga County's Burnet Park Zoo, would present a program *What's New and Why Have Zoos?* The Burnet Park Zoo had finally changed from City to County with a great deal of money promised to build a whole new zoo. A master plan would be completed in the spring. *It was at a hearing on February 24, 1971 that OAS had suggested either closing the City zoo or building a new and improved County facility.*



Hurricane Frederick, on September 14, 1979 died down but created strong northwest winds on September 15th. Flock after flock of disoriented Common Terns were seen off Derby Hill and Sandy Pond. There were easily 10,000 birds involved before they got their bearings and headed south. Prior to this phenomenon, the highest inland count had been 750.

Each year, Audubon tries to send a local teacher to Audubon Camp. One such visit from August 12-24, 1979 is well described. The field trips and evening workshops covered many phases of nature. One of the highlights was a trip to Eastern Egg Rock where Steve Kress from Cornell was attempting to reestablish the Puffin colony.

In the March 1980 issue, Gerry Smith reported a record season at Derby Hill in 1979. Nine of the normally migrating 15 species of hawks exceeded their previous high

one year counts. After a spectacular April, Gerry expected a letdown in May. However, 13,368 hawks kept things interesting, as did the rare sighting of a Swainson's Hawk and a Sandhill Crane and several large passerine flights. A local birder observed, "The spring was food for the soul in future years."

Karen Slotnick announced the formation of the Central New York Mycological Society. They had their first organizational meeting and a program on spring fungi on April 24, 1980

OAS received a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of \$1,000 to monitor hawks at Derby Hill. The Environmental Protection Agency also granted \$1,000 for nine months as part of its "People and Toxics" project.

Robert Arbib of the National Audubon Society recommended that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs undertake an Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Britain and other European countries had done this and several counties in Maryland and a few other states. The Federation, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and NYSDEC would cooperate on this venture with support from National Audubon Society. Surveying would be undertaken on a grid system of 5 km square blocks. Dorothy Crumb was to be coordinator for Region 5. *This project was very successful and a repeat project has just completed its first year of a follow-up to record changes in distribution 20 years later.*

Mary Woolley, confined to her home, wrote a charming note about enjoying birds at her feeders and the Great Horned Owls calling in the moonlight.

In the Annual Report for 1980, the editor reported that Jimmy Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act protecting over 100 million acres of our nation's most pristine habitat. The \$1.6 billion environmental superfund was passed, which permitted the government to begin the cleanup of dangerous chemical spills and toxic waste dumps.

The report from Derby Hill stated that for the third year they had raised enough money to repay National Audubon Society. The house was again occupied by Gerry Smith during hawk counting season and by Ed Henckel from Pennsylvania for two weeks while banding hawks.

A parking lot was constructed at Noyes Sanctuary and many trails were cleared and maintained. The Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District sent a crew of workers to accomplish these tasks and did some brush cutting at Derby Hill and installed signs at both Sanctuaries.

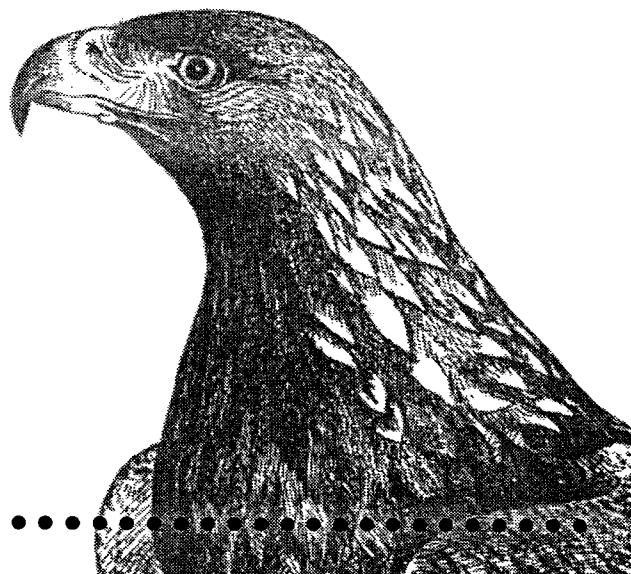
Both Dave Raboy, Director of Burnet Park Zoo, and Gene Hocutt from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge spoke at the September 1980 meeting. Dave Raboy presented slides of the new development plan for the zoo and Gene Hocutt discussed the eagle release program and the threat of the refuge from the landfill at Seneca Falls.

Dorothy Crumb reported on the results of the first year of the Breeding Bird Atlas with 47 blocks covered and 154 species of birds documented.

It was announced that Gerald Smith and James M. Ryan had completed *The Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Oswego County and Northern Cayuga County*.



1981-1990



In January 1981 the program meeting was *Toxic Wastes—their effects on Central New York*. Dick Roberts, a chemist for General Electric and an active board member of OAS, led the meeting. Audubon's committee had been studying toxic waste hazards in Central New York for a year.

Seminars were being held for an hour prior to the regular meeting. On February 4th, Gerry Smith presented one on future plans for Derby Hill. On March 4th, Dorothy Crumb discussed the second year of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

President Carter had signed into law two major conservation bills—the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental superfund to clean up dangerous chemical spills and toxic waste dumps.

The program meeting on April 1, 1981 combined the interest of the OAS and the relatively new Central New York Mycological Society. The title was *Common Edible Mushrooms of Central New York*.

The extremely successful and worthwhile *Walk to Save the County* was continued in May.

Acid Rain reared its ugly head in the Conservation column in the March-April 1981 *Kestrel*. There was more discussion of the returnable container bill. The People and Toxic Waste Committee was again praised for its activities. They attended monthly meetings of the Environmental Roundtable in Albany gleaning valuable information and collected enough slides for a 20-minute presentation. At that time, over a million and a half tons of hazard-

ous waste was generated annually in New York State and only 10% was disposed of properly. OAS received credit for their work in the January-February 1981 issue of the *New York State Conservationist Magazine*.

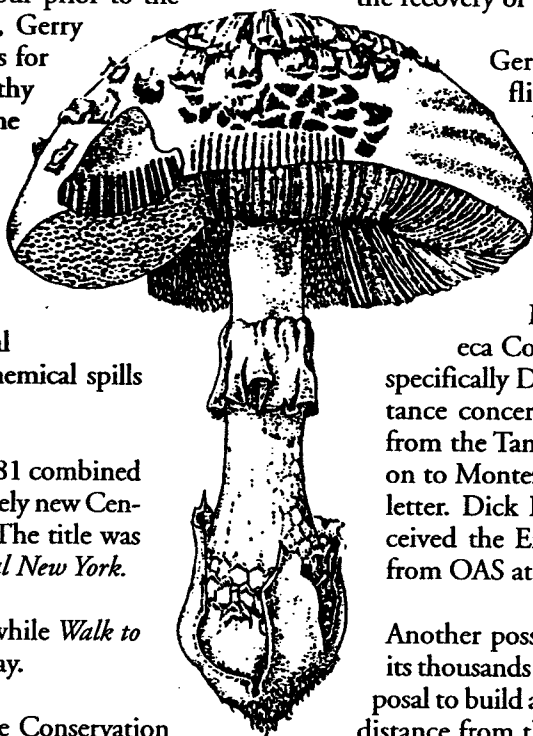
There was a report from the North American Bluebird Society about building bluebird boxes and trails to try to speed the recovery of this beautiful bird.

Gerry Smith reported the first hawk flight over Derby Hill on February 16th with a total of 102 raptors, including 66 Rough-legged Hawks.

In the May-June issue of *The Kestrel*, a letter was reproduced from Gene Hocutt, manager of the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in Seneca County. The letter thanked OAS and specifically Dick Roberts for their valuable assistance concerning the drainage of toxic wastes from the Tantalo Landfill into Black Brook and on to Montezuma. Tom Riley received a similar letter. Dick Roberts and Tom Riley jointly received the Environmentalist of the Year award from OAS at the Annual Banquet in June 1981.

Another possible problem for Montezuma and its thousands of migrating waterfowl was the proposal to build an airport in Cayuga County a short distance from the refuge. Tom Riley presented his reasons for opposing the site—mainly the fact that there was the danger of bird strikes causing aircraft crashes.

David Seymour of the National Audubon Society was planning a 350 mile walk from north of Massena following the shore of Lake Ontario to Niagara Falls. The reason for the walk was not to raise money, but to focus public attention



on New York State's coastal zone and its importance to the State's environment.

In 1981 the final installment of the loan to National Audubon Society for the Derby Hill House was paid. Dr. F.G. Scheider donated most of the money for this entire purchase. The OAS treasury was almost empty and had created cash flow problems. The Education Committee announced the creation of a teaching slide collection, but needed more photos.

Congress had passed an Endangered Species Act. After ten years of struggle, the New York State Legislature passed the bottle bill.

Bob Long reported that after seven trips to the Adirondacks over the years, a male Spruce Grouse was finally located in May. "There was much rejoicing and a renewal



of faith in Mother Nature, in that, 1) The bird really exists and 2) that it could be found in New York State."

Noyes Sanctuary trails have been opened for year-round use, including cross-country skiing. A successful owl-banding project had been started with a total of 21 captured owls: one Screech Owl, four Long-eared Owls, and 16 Saw-whet Owls. One Barn owl flew over, but was not netted. Over 110 passerines were banded and there were 59 previously trapped birds.

Two very active members of OAS died in 1981 and were remembered in the September/October issue of *The Kestrel*. Dr. F. C. (Ted) Dittrich died July 3, 1981. He was a long-time member and OAS President from 1964 through 1966. Paul Paquette from Oneida died July 28 1981. "His wonderful sense of humor, dignity and marvelous use of the

English language are among the cherished memories of Paul."

In the December issue, a talk by Dr. David Tatham, Professor of Art History at Syracuse University, on the art of John J. Audubon, was scheduled and followed by the actual viewing of 15 of the original Audubon prints from the Elephant Portfolio. *Those who attended, used to seeing reproductions, were amazed at how much more brilliant the colors were in the originals.*

Dorothy Crumb reported on a tower kill in Pompey on the night of September 6 and the morning of September 7 1981. With north winds and dense fog, dead birds were reported at four different locations. Several people collected the dead birds at the Pompey tower and the total count was over 1,000, with 583 being warblers. "As usually happens in these large kills, Red-eyed Vireos are the most numerous; in this case, they accounted for over 25% of the total, 231 individuals. Ovenbird was next with 120 and Bay-breasted Warbler with 112. The rarest bird picked up was a Connecticut Warbler." *In the year 2001, application has been made to build another 1,000-foot tower just southeast of the present 900-foot WIXT tower.*

A five-member board of managers was appointed to be responsible for operation of the Derby Hill Bird Observatory. The first managers were Dr. Robert Long, Cindy Page, Dr. David Muir, Scott Harris, and C. Alan Baker, Chairman. There are many problems involved with managing the property that is "readily accessible to the general public; that has neighbors in close proximity; that includes a valuable cottage; that is generally unmanned most of the year; and that has unavoidable liability and responsibility—all with a modest budget."

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Palm, new members of Onondaga Audubon Society, who were building a house across the road from the cottage, were thanked for their many donations and friendly assistance.

The New York State Federation of Bird Clubs was held in Syracuse on September 24-26. Over 179 people attended a "truly professional meeting" for amateur ornithologists.

In the January-February 1982 issue of *The Kestrel*, the Second Annual Photography Contest was announced, with four nature categories. James Brett, from Hawk Mountain, was to be the speaker for the April 7th meeting.

The rare birds for Central New York were reported. A Say's Phoebe was found in Marcellus by John Weeks on November 8, 1981. A Gyrfalcon was seen by Dorothy Crumb and John Hanyak on November 12th at the Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center on Lake Ontario and again at



Derby Hill on November 23rd. On October 22nd, Fritz Scheider located a Brewer's Blackbird feeding on the lawn of an apartment complex in Liverpool.

Bob Long presented his talk *The Showy Tree Flowers of Central New York*. The slides showed the trees in sequence of blooming. John Confer from Ithaca College was to be the speaker at the June banquet. His topic was *Acid Rain and the Energy Dilemma*.

There was a setback for National Audubon when an appeals court judge canceled the injunction prohibiting further construction of the billion dollar irrigation project, the Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota.

Two important acid rain control bills were introduced into the House and Senate. Also, there was a House Bill introduced by the automobile industry that would allow doubling auto carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emission standards and weaken testing requirements. The Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress.

Dick Roberts wrote an informative article about Noyes Sanctuary. Richard Noyes had acquired the 100 acres on Lake Ontario approximately 50 years ago. An expert woodworker, he had built his own house, planted gardens and developed many trails. In 1975 he donated 87 acres to The Nature Conservancy, who then transferred the property to Onondaga Audubon Society. OAS has continued to maintain the trails, built a parking lot and maintained successful bird banding projects. Almost a thousand birds had been banded in the last year. A map of the property and trails was included in the March-April 1982 issue of *The Kestrel*.



Of 277 species of birds tallied in 1981, 35 were not on the regular checklist for the area. The list included Little Blue Heron and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, three shorebirds, a number of gulls and terns. It also included Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Prairie, and Connecticut Warblers. Dorothy Crumb had a Boreal Chickadee at her feeder. The unusual sightings also included Wild Turkey. *Strange, today, to think of Wild Turkey as being difficult to find.*

"We don't have to worry about endangered species—why we can't even get rid of the cockroach." James Watt, Secretary of the Interior. This quotation preceded a discussion of the Endangered Species Act stating that 17 provisions of the act were in danger of being weakened or eliminated.

Derby Hill had started having open house weekends in April. The first one in 1982 was unsuccessful because of northwest winds, rain and a severe storm. But on April 17th, there were brisk south-southwest winds and flocks of visitors. Quantities of coffee and doughnuts were devoured, but better still was a spectacular flight of just over 5000 hawks, including 6 eagles.

Jim Karp was honored as Environmentalist of the Year. A reason given was that many of the conservation commissions and organizations that are a vital force in Central New York's environmental movement were started by him. "Jim is a professor and Chairman of the Law and Public Policy Department at Syracuse University's School of Management." *Jim Karp is just as active in environmental issues nearly 20 years later.*

Volunteers for the Breeding Bird Atlas project who were not members of OAS were given a complimentary subscription to *The Kestrel* for the duration of the Atlas. In this way, information could easily be sent to the volunteers without extra mailing costs. In the May-June issue, Region Coordinators Paul DeBenedictis and Dorothy Crumb tried to encourage workers to expand their coverage by moving from the block that they were covering to one that had not been assigned. There was also a list of 69 species of birds that should be found in nearly every three-mile square block in Region 5. *Canada Goose was not included in 1982, but has increased its nesting range over the 20 years. Tur-*

key Vulture may not breed in every block, but is certainly seen over most of the region during nesting season.

Dorothy Crumb told of banding redpolls at her feeder from January 31, 1982 to April 11th. Starting slowly at first, Dorothy was surprised to have banded 1,132 by April 11th. She had also retrapped 307 birds that she had banded previously that year. There were seven Hoary Redpolls among the Commons and many variations in color.

Dorothy Swindells and Dorothy Crumb were winners of the Annual Photography Contest and the winning pictures were published.



C. J. Page © 1987

In *Local Bird Sightings*, Peg Arinsen reported one of the best March flights at Derby Hill, including 10 eagles and one immature Swainson's Hawk. Owl banding at Noyes was also successful with 12 Saw-whet Owls, four Long-eared Owls, and one Screech-Owl banded.

On November 10, 1982, Ron Naveen, editor of *Birding Magazine* and an expert on seabirds and whales, presented a program *Pelagic Birds and Cetaceans*.

After many years of meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, OAS changed to the second Wednesday. The reason for this was the building of the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University. Many basketball games on the same nights as the meetings interfered with parking at nearby Illick Hall where the meetings were held.

Several pieces of conservation legislation were proposed and should be approved. This included protection of wilderness areas, pesticide control, clean air, and control over dumping of hazardous waste.

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas report told of finding a nesting pair of Prothonotary Warblers at Delta Lake. This was a first for Region 5 in many years. A Belted Kingfisher was nesting in a pile of sand used for sandtraps at a golf course. When the course manager accidentally dug into the nest, he made a new hole with his hand and arm and put the young birds in it. He hid behind his truck and watched the female almost immediately fly to the new location to feed the noisy, hungry young.

In the November-December 1982 issue, this announcement was made: "A unique ecological area which includes the least disturbed and most natural high sand dune ecosystem along Lake Ontario will be maintained in its natural state as a result of a recent acquisition by The Nature

Conservancy. The Conservancy has acquired a 100 acre addition to its El Dorado Beach Preserve in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County."

Cindy Page retired as editor of *The Kestrel* and was warmly thanked by President Bob Long. Cindy will now spend much of her time as caretaker of injured hawks, owls, and small mammals.

Field trips have always been an important part of Onondaga Audubon Society. There are old favorites, like a visit to St. Mary's Cemetery in the spring, trips along major inland waterways for wintering waterfowl, and exploring Ferd's Bog in the Adirondacks.

1982 started a new trip to John Rogers' Bluebird Trail north of Oneida Lake. There were 26 field trips to various places from September 1982 to July 1983.

An Audit Committee was convened after several years of inactivity to examine the books for the period 1979-1982. Many problems were found by this postponing of audits but were finally straightened out by combining excess accounts. An independent accountant was then called in to review the work and be sure everything was in order. It was agreed never to let the audit fall behind again.

In program notes in the first 1983 issue, a repeat of the visit to Bird Library that was so successful a year ago was scheduled for February. This time the work of Alexander Wilson (Wilson's Warbler, Wilson's Phalarope) would be presented in addition to viewing selections from Audubon's Elephant Portfolio. Another program for March was Roy Slack giving a presentation on Eastern Owls. Roy participated in the owl banding project at Noyes' Sanctuary.

Announcement was made of the death of Julia Lynch. She served OAS well for over 10 years as Membership Chairman and answering the OAS telephone.

At a board meeting, Conservation problems were mentioned. It was voiced that there was active opposition to the recently passed Bottle Bill and EPA was not doing enough to combat the use of 1080. At the same meeting, plans were made to create a three-page foldout describing OAS in an effort to attract new members.

Rare in Central New York are Black-legged Kittiwakes. But at Derby Hill in the fall of 1982, there was a "staggering" total of 125, with 56 seen on October 15th. "It was felt that eleven days of easterly winds in early October was the factor that brought so many our way." A Northern Gannet, way off course, was seen off of Derby Hill on November 24th by Granger Ward. It was relocated at Oswego on November 28th. On December 2nd, a bird in identical plumage was seen by Karen Confer at the south end of Cayuga Lake.

Announcement was included in the January-February issue of *The Kestrel* of the Hawk Migration Association of North America conference in Rochester at the end of March 1983. Papers would be presented by many experts in the hawk field, including Ken Able, Bill Clark, Seth Benz, Mike Harwood, Clay Sutton, Pete Dunne, and Paul Kerlinger. The main speaker was to be Yossi Lesham of the Israel Raptor Information Center.

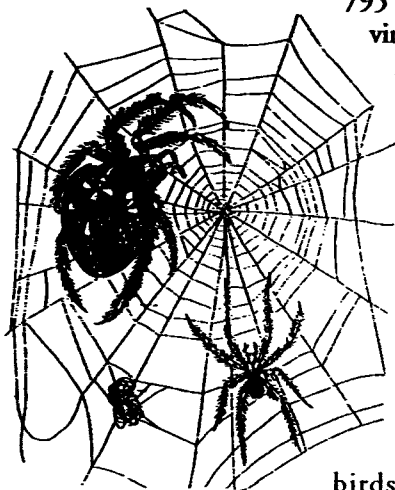
A brief history of Derby Hill mentioned that the first hawk count at Derby Hill had been conducted by John Haugh in 1963. Counts were continued occasionally through the years. At times they were done by more than one observer. In 1979, OAS provided funds to have Gerry Smith conduct daily counts while in residence at the newly purchased cottage on the hill. A grant was received from the United States Fish and Wildlife to conduct these continuous counts starting in 1980. With daily coverage, hawk counts went from 19 to 27 thousand a year into the 50 thousands.

The March-April 1983 issue announced two programs, one by Dr. Peter Pratt, Professor of Anthropology at SUNY-Oswego. Dr. Pratt's talk started back at the last ice age and the first entry of man into this area. The program for May was *Wildflowers of the Plant Communities of Interior Alaska* by Joseph McMullen.

The International Whaling Commission voted in July 1982 to phase out whaling of all species by the 1985-1986 season. In September, Peru announced its formal objection to the phase-out, followed soon by Japan, Norway, and the Soviet Union. Members were urged to write Peru, encouraging them to withdraw the objection.

At least 200 million pounds of pesticides are exported annually. These products are used on foods that we then import. It was a vicious circle and should be stopped.

It was urged that everyone write the DEC urging them to purchase the Rome Sand Plains. Recently, developers and a peat mining company had been trying to purchase this property. "The Sand Dunes is an area of approximately 795 acres that has been left

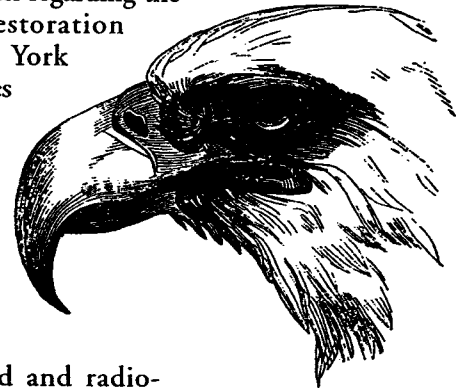


virtually untouched by the ravages of progress. The sand dunes and ground formations are the result of glacial movements in New York State some 10,000 years ago. There are existent some very rare flora found only here at Rome Sand Plains. It is a natural habitat for many species of insects, birds and butterflies so

unique as to be found in only a few places in the entire U.S."

Derby Hill open house was continued—this year for three weekends. Coffee and doughnuts were provided. It was decided that the house would now be open for members to use for a summer day or weekend. Payment would be a small donation or a minor maintenance project.

A report was given regarding the Bald Eagle restoration project in New York State. Some eagles came from wild nests in Minnesota or Wisconsin. One was captive produced in Patuxent, Maryland. One pair were netted and radio-



tagged in January 1983 in hopes that they could be followed to their nesting grounds.

Bill Minor stated that *Heartland*, the book about the geology of Onondaga County by Mike Storey, had sold 346 copies through 1983.

Rather than Environmentalist of the Year, two new awards were being given at the 1983 banquet. Mildred Faust, well-known botanist from Syracuse University, was named "Outstanding Scientist." Marge Rusk was given the Distinguished Service award. Marge had been a member of Onondaga Audubon Society for 30 years. She served on the Board of Directors for almost 20 years, edited *The Kestrel* for many years, and led numerous field trips. Ron Dodson, northeast Region Representative for National Audubon Society, was the guest speaker of the evening.

A presentation of slides of birds of Florida by Dorothy Crumb would be the program for September 1983.

Many conservation issues were facing tough battles in the House and Senate. These included the Hazardous Wastes Law, Wilderness Bill and the Alaska Act.

An interesting letter was received from Beth Beyene who had been a member of Onondaga Audubon Society for many years and now lived in Niger, West Africa. She had started birding in Central New York on a field trip led by Dorothy Crumb. She described the difference in birding in Africa. The birds seemed easier to see and were much more colorful.

Beth ended her letter, "Thanks for the so-well-done *Kestrel*—it's a bright spot in a place that doesn't even have a word for birdwatching!"

Two new OAS publications were completed. There was a brochure describing Derby Hill; a history, chart of hawk arrival dates, and a map. The second publication was a revised checklist.

At the end of three years of the Breeding Bird Atlas, 321 blocks had some coverage out of a total of 550 in Region 5. But only 38 had been covered adequately—76 species with 38 confirmed. A map showed the blocks that had some coverage and the ones that needed to be “adopted.”

Cindy Page became curious about the OAS logo, the drawing of the American Kestrel. She contacted Walter Spofford in Arizona, who had been one of the original founders of the organization. Following are excerpts from Spof's reply:

H. Wayne Trimm, a former Syracusan, had done the original drawing. *Thanks to Cindy, it has been framed and is still in the possession of OAS. The drawing first appeared in the fall and winter program for 1961-1962.*

Walter Spofford remembered that Bill Minor had suggested a Pileated Woodpecker, but he and Wayne Trimm preferred a hawk or falcon. The American Kestrel was decided on as a compromise for the “hawk people” and the “dickie-bird people.” At the time, the bird was known as the American Sparrow Hawk, but later more correctly named the American Kestrel. The first “official” field trip was on 29 April, 1951, to Green Lake State Park, led by Wayne Trimm. The first program meeting was 9 May, 1951. David Swetland, President of the Cleveland Audubon Society showed films of the bird life in Florida.

Spof continued: “In addition to Bill Minor and Fritz Scheider, Marge Mathis joined in 1952 or 1953, along with Marge Rusk. Of course, Todd and Terry Farnham were founding members, and Paul and Sylvia Paquette and Wayne Trimm and Betty Marsh. Mrs. Orrie Evans is no longer with us. The last I heard, the Courtneys had moved to Florida. By 1952-1953, Beryl Dunning and Emelie Curtis had joined. Ben Burt had joined by 1952.”

Some of the unusual bird sightings reported by Peg Arinsen in the May-June 1983 issue were a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Minetto on February 20th, a White-fronted Goose at Biddlecum Marsh on March 31st, a male Eurasian Teal in North Syracuse on April 3rd, and a Western Meadowlark found by John Rogers on April 9th while monitoring his Eastern Bluebird boxes in West Monroe, Oswego County.

In the fall 1983 issue, it was reported that Congress had approved another \$223 million for the Garrison Conversion Unit—a project objected to for many years by environmentalists.

National Academy of Sciences linked acid rain to sulfur dioxide from industrial smokestacks. A 50% reduction in the emissions would reduce acid rain by approximately 50%. The Reagan Administration stated that the evidence of damage was overwhelming and some kind of federal action was needed to control the problem.



There were record numbers of Saw-whet Owls in Region 5 in 1983, including 30 in the nets at Noyes Sanctuary and two that stayed at Phoenix, Oswego County at least until the end of July.

On November 9, 1983, John Weeks presented a program, *Profiles of the Wild*, concentrating on wetlands and birds. He had been a program consultant or designer for more than two dozen nature centers and at that time served as consultant at Baltimore Woods in Marcellus. On November 14th, Charles Walcott, executive director of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology spoke on *The Continuing Mystery of Bird Migration*.

The Syracuse Christmas Bird Count was scheduled for Saturday, December 17th. A chili countdown at Bob and Ellie Long's house was a tradition started in December 1982 and one that has continued each year since, except for one. The Longs daughter Mary Ellen was married that day in 1983 and Karen and Mel Slornick hosted the countdown (borrowing Ellie's chili recipes.) What a great thing to do for 30 or 40 cold and hungry birdwatchers who had been out scouring the bushes all day.

In 1983, 307 final forms were sent in for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. This represented 291 of the 550 Atlas blocks. At the end of four years, 97 blocks were completed. Eight species were added to the Region 5 Breeding Bird Atlas list: Pied-billed Grebe, Spruce Grouse, Common Snipe, Greater Black-backed Gull, Long-eared Owl, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Warbler.

On August 8 Gerry Smith spotted a Little Blue Heron in Sage Creek Marsh below Derby Hill. It didn't stay long enough to be ticked off by other frustrated birders. Further north at El Dorado Beach, Gerry found Snowy Egrets and Tri-colored Heron, both of which stayed longer. A rare Piping Plover was found at Sylvan Beach on September 2nd by Karen Slotnick. Also at Sylvan Beach on September 14th was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper found by David Cesari. A Ruff hung around Onondaga Lake for three weeks, starting on August 17th. *Birders began to think of this rarity as a "trash" bird.* The last unusual shore bird was a Whimbrel north of Verona Beach on October 3rd. John Hanyak had both Kentucky Warbler and Connecticut Warbler at Sandy Pond. On September 11th, Marge Rusk saw 21 Forsters' Terns. One or two a year is the norm.

Thanks to Peg Arinsen for her great birding reports!

Winter navigation on the St. Lawrence River was approved unanimously by a House Committee with no debate or public hearings. Winter navigation had already been determined to be an environmental disaster by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NYS Department of Conservation. If an oil spill were to occur during the winter, under the ice, no technology could clean up the spill.

In the January-February 1984 issue of *The Kestrel*, the Noyes Sanctuary Board of Managers thanked volunteers who worked to finish spreading gravel on the parking lot and some wet spots along the trails. They also helped to clear trees that had fallen across some of the trails, cleaned nest boxes and added four new owl boxes. A Sanctuary Fund was started to help cover costs of tools and materials used at Noyes Sanctuary.

A Northern Gannet was seen from Derby Hill on November 18, 1983 by Dorothy Crumb and John Hanyak. This was within a week of the date of the sighting in 1982. John Hanyak saw 165 Double-crested Cormorant at Sandy Pond on October 6th. *This was an impressive number in 1983. Today local fishermen wish they would occur in that small a number.*

An immature Bald Eagle with a yellow tag was seen at Sandy Pond on October 6th, along with six Peregrine Falcons. A check on the eagle found that it had been tagged and released at Saranac Lake.

More maintenance work and additions were reported for Noyes in the building of a new, much enlarged bird feeder, rebuilding of bridges and clearing of more fallen trees.

Dick Roberts asked for more volunteers to help with the always-needed maintenance. Dick was the featured speaker at the May 9 1984 meeting. His topic was *The Birds of Noyes Sanctuary*. He and his assistants had banded over 3000 birds at the sanctuary in 1983, with over 600 banded on May 15th alone.

Peg Arinsen's always humorous *Local Bird Sightings* had this paragraph: "How do you explain to a non-birding friend that what you plan to do on a five-degree January day is to take her on a tour of windswept fields, stick a pair of cold binoculars in her hands, stand her on a snow bank and tell her to look at manure?" This perfectly normal mannerism paid off for Marty Bridgham who, on January 16th 1984 found one of those cold fields south of Canastota with one thousand Snow Buntings, fifty Horned Larks and an impressive twenty Lapland Longspurs. *By the way, Peg and her companion remained friends.*

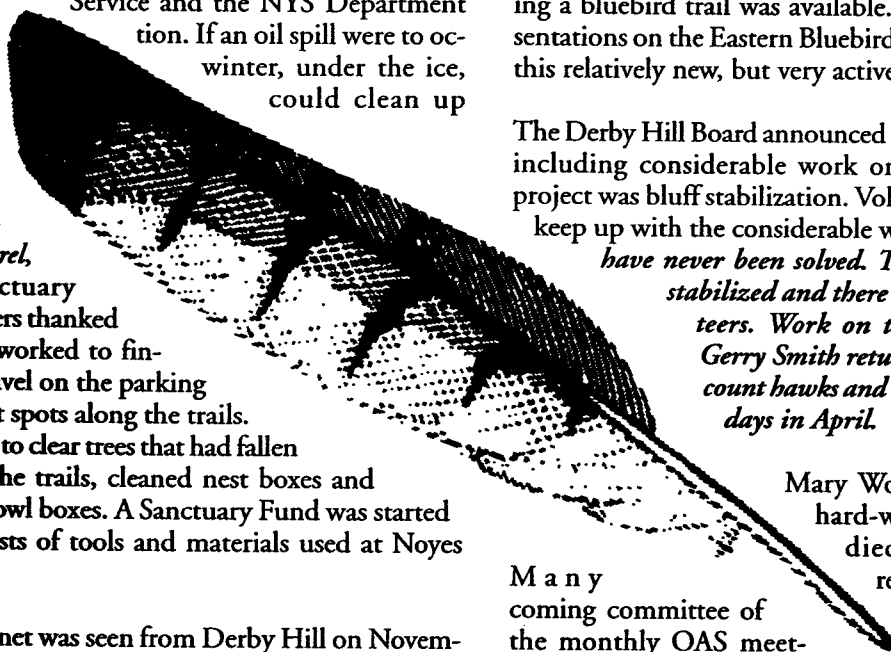
The Upstate New York Bluebird Society had been formed in 1982. They were now selling bluebird boxes for \$5.00 each. Literature on constructing nest boxes and establishing a bluebird trail was available. Speakers and slide presentations on the Eastern Bluebird were also available from this relatively new, but very active group.

The Derby Hill Board announced several projects for 1984, including considerable work on the cottage. Another project was bluff stabilization. Volunteers were required to keep up with the considerable work. *Two of these things have never been solved. The bluff has never been stabilized and there are never enough volunteers. Work on the cottage is on-going. Gerry Smith returned for his sixth year to count hawks and there were six open-house days in April.*

Mary Woolley, a long-time and hard-working OAS member, died in February 1984.

Many remember her as the welcoming committee of one as you walked into the monthly OAS meetings. She started birding where she grew up—on the shores of the unique and beautiful Labrador Pond.

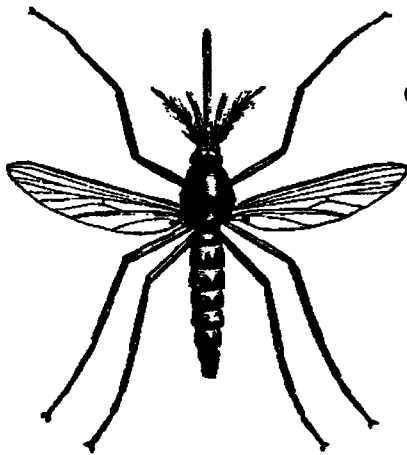
At the June, 1984 OAS banquet, Ken Able from Albany presented a program *Birds and Scenes: First Impressions of Australia*. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dorothy Crumb who had been a member since she moved to Syracuse over 15 years ago. She served as Program Chairman, local birding reporter for *The Kestrel*, a speaker at several meetings, and was currently Region 5 Coordinator for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. Dr. F. G. (Fritz) Scheider received the Science Award for his contributions to ornithology and for being one of the discoverers of Derby Hill. He was Region 5 Editor of *The Kingbird* for 23 years. "From the first Boy Scout working



on his merit badge, to today's active birders in Region 5, Fritz has used his skills and talents, his patience and his time, and most of all, his love for birds to help teach others the science of ornithology."

An organization known as "Save the River" announced that winter navigation on the St. Lawrence River had been stopped. Save the River was moving ahead with plans for nesting platforms for Ospreys and Bald Eagles. They also planned to conduct a water quality survey of the river.

Coordinators for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas announced that it now took 586.5 feet of paper to report the 25,000 plus birds found by Region 5 Atlas workers. *It also took several square feet of closet space for us to store this material.* Approximately 150 blocks were completed or near completion. There was one more year to go and a lot of pleasurable work to be done.



Onondaga County was planning to spray Dibron 14 to combat eastern equine encephalitis as soon as the snow melted. The vector (harboring) mosquito does not even reach a level which spraying will affect until mid July. This early spraying would only help control pest mosquitoes that don't even harbor EEE. Although this chemical was supposed to break down upon contact with water, that was found to be untrue.

On September 12, 1984 Dr. George Maxwell from SUNY-Oswego, spoke at the OAS meeting about species of both plants and animals becoming extinct and why it is a concern of biologists. Dr. Stephen Kress from Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology spoke at the October 10th meeting about his project to re-establish the Atlantic Puffin in Maine. Two other programs in November and December covered a visit Lee and Karen Rentz had made to the North Atlantic coast and Ms. Shirley Peron of Vernon spoke about Alaska.

Several interesting nesting species were found in the last year of the Breeding Bird Atlas project. New for the state was a nesting Yellow-throated Warbler found by blockbuster Diane Emord south of Albany. Gary Lee found nesting Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers south of Stillwater Reservoir in Herkimer County. That is the first record of the species nesting in Region 5. Jim Bardsley watched two Piping Plovers through June and July and finally saw two fledged young. This was the first nesting for Sandy Pond since 1959.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry offered several short courses for the fall that were of interest to OAS members. One course was on the identification of fall migrant birds; one was on nature photography and the third on nature drawing.

There was a report about the success of Cornell's captive breeding of Peregrine Falcons. They had released about 100 young falcons. Eighteen pair had been seen in the wild along the east coast and it was hoped that fifteen pair would nest. They had already been nesting on some of the New York City bridges and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Maryland. During the 1960s and 70s, no Peregrine Falcons were known to have nested east of the Mississippi. Cornell biologists, under the leadership of Tom Cade, Professor of Ornithology, began to breed Peregrines in captivity in 1970. Both Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles had become endangered by DDT. But eggshells now showed DDT levels well below the amounts in the 1950s and 1960s when the shells could not support the weight of the nesting parents. Although young Peregrines were released starting in 1975, it wasn't until 1980 that any pairs produced young.

In the winter 1984 issue, a beautiful Screech Owl print was shown. Cindy Page had been commissioned to create this limited edition print from an original line drawing. The 100 prints were available for a donation of \$25. Cindy graduated from Baldwinsville High School and received a BA from SUNY-Potsdam in 1973, with a major in studio art and a minor in Biology. Since graduation, she has worked in the art field, specializing in natural history subjects. She is also an expert photographer and wildlife rehabilitator.



Dr. Bruno Desimone for 20 years had been one of the regular hawk watchers at Derby Hill. He was an active and faithful supporter of Derby Hill, Audubon and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Dr. Desimone, a retired dentist from the Oneida area, died on August 2, 1984.

Derby Hill decided to try to purchase six acres of land further south on Sage Creek drive—an area that had become known as the South Lookout. Negotiating with the

owners proved to be difficult and lasted for six months. Derby Hill also added two acres of land and marsh on the west side and north end of Sage Creek Road. The funds for this purchase came from a corporate grant from Fulton Boiler Works in Pulaski. This generous grant was realized through the efforts of Ron and Cathy Palm who had recently built a home opposite the Derby Hill cottage.

Dr. James Lackey from SUNY-Oswego presented a program on bats at the January 1985 meeting, to be followed by a *Members Photograph Night* in February and *The Coyote in New York State* by Robert Chambers in March.

The spring issue of *The Kestrel* announced an April program by Pete Dunne, Director of Cape May Bird Observatory and in May, Dorothy Crumb would show slides of her trip to the Galapagos.

The purchase of land for the South Lookout on Sage Creek Road was completed at a price of \$9,000 for five acres. The Fish and Wildlife grant continued and Gerry Smith started his seventh consecutive year as hawk counter at Derby Hill. There were six spring open-house days.

Central New York Birding Hot Spots was a new project that was started in *The Kestrel* in spring 1985. Bob Long wrote the article about the Number 1 location, St. Mary's Woods in Dewitt, Onondaga County. Bob's description was excellent, telling when and where to go; what species of birds to look for; a map; and even hints including best time of day and what footwear might be needed. *These articles eventually provided ideas for a very successful book published by Onondaga Audubon Society, City Cemeteries to Boreal Bogs: Where to Go Birding in Central New York, edited by Dorothy Crumb and James Throckmorton, illustrated by Sue Adair.*

In an article *Winter Birding in the Adirondacks*, Dorothy Crumb described a day with three other Syracuse friends and Gary Lee, Forest Ranger for the Old Forge-Inlet area, where they saw both crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Common Raven. To quote the last paragraph: "When I think back to this delightful mid-January day, I am again impressed with the varied habitats that occur in such a relatively small section of Central New York. From the high peaks of the Adirondacks to the low lake plains, there is constant change. With this change in habitat you find many forms of plant and animal life. We are fortunate to be able to take it in our stride and enjoy as little or as much of it as we want."

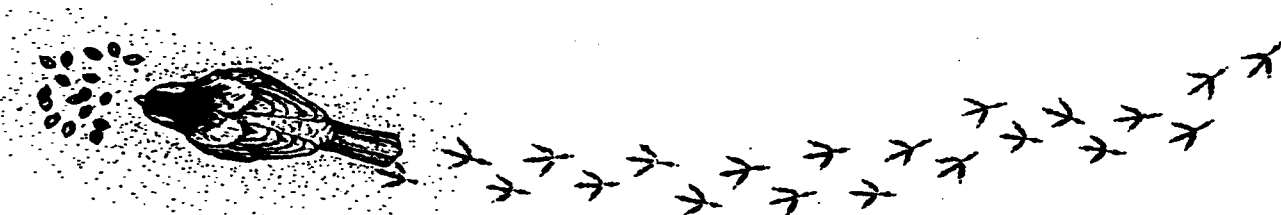
Conservation Chairman, Mike Turan, discussed the Superfund reauthorization. He states, "We now know of approximately 20,000 potentially dangerous hazardous waste sites across the country. Thousands of people are exposed to leaking hazardous waste dumps and the government's response to the problem has been slow and ineffectual." Senator Stafford had introduced a superfund bill, but it had some weaknesses. It was recommended that OAS members write a letter to get the bill strengthened and a sample letter was included.

The May-June 1985 issue discussed the OAS banquet in June. The speaker was Mr. Art Banderik, a member of the Adirondack Hiking Club and the exclusive group of people in the 46 Club who had climbed all of the high peaks of the Adirondacks. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bob and Ellie Long who had both served OAS for many years in many capacities. *If one looks at any job of importance to OAS from President to Derby Hill floor scrubber, one or the other of this warm, friendly, intelligent couple has performed in that capacity at least once. And in the year 2001, they are still at it.*

Richard Noyes, who had built the house he had lived in near Lake Ontario at Nine Mile Point, died on March 21, 1985. He had given ninety of his one hundred acres to The Nature Conservancy and they had turned it over to Onondaga Audubon Society. Mr. Noyes wrote of his pleasures in life—wildlife, wildflowers, walking in the woods, building with the various types of wood that he loved. He was also grateful for the beauty in the arts—classical music, opera, theater, ballet, and literature. His reflections were printed in the May-June issue of *The Kestrel*, along with his picture and the announcement of his death.

There was an announcement that there would be a dedication ceremony and reception in honor of Mildred Faust on May 18, 1985, at Baltimore Woods. "A one-acre tract in which the woodland flowers are displayed in attractive and meaningful groupings will be named in her honor at this time."

In the fall 1985 issue, famous wildlife artist Louis DePaulis was announced as speaker for the September 11th meeting. Robert Long wrote an editorial *Onondaga County Solid Waste - a Disaster*. The Tripoli landfill was poisoning the groundwater and the garbage haulers were accused of price gouging. The mayor of Syracuse announced with a flourish that the city's trash would be hauled to Seneca Falls. Environmentalists were worried about the Rock Cut gar-



bage burning plant. There were many problems with hauling trash to Seneca Falls, among which were the threat of toxic damage to Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and the cost of hauling such a distance.

Peter Berle was selected to head National Audubon Society. It was like welcoming an old friend. Peter Berle had been an active defender of the environment when he was a New York assemblyman. He served as DEC Commissioner from 1976 to 1979.

The second *Central New York Birding Hot Spots* appeared in the September-October issue. This was written by Marge Rusk and covered Sylvan Beach and Verona Beach. Marge's description was excellent, giving an account of the makeup of swampy woods and sandy beaches. She also included a map of the area.



The three fall and winter programs were *Penguins of the World* by Ron Naveen, *DEC Wildlife Management Programs* by John Proud and *New Zealand Ramble* by Harlan and Shirley Howe. The Howes used three projectors with one picture fading into another.

Both candidates for Syracuse mayor were asked their opinions on the major problems of solid waste disposal. Roy Bernardi leaned more to Resource Recovery and objected to landfill operations because they threatened the ecology. Tom Linda had taken over the Conservation Chairman position and this was one of the issues he would be addressing.

The program announced for the February 5 1986 meeting was about a study of Barn Swallows at Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence County by Dr. William Shields. This was followed on March 5th with Bruce Gillian talking about protecting the 200-300 rare plants in New York State.

President John Hanyak announced that OAS had been named a beneficiary under the will of Flora A. Sporberg, a former resident of Liverpool. She named OAS as a recipient of a cash bequest of \$25,000. John thanked the Sporberg family on behalf of the organization.

John Hanyak also thanked Larry Linder for agreeing to answer the OAS telephone in his new store, The Bird Feeding Station.

Paul Knittel and Eileen Linda had been working on a Nature Club for children mainly in grades 4-6 since the summer of 1985. The members received a monthly Nature Club Newsletter that told of field trips as well as letters

from members, drawings, games, contests, and nature news and information.

Bill Minor gave a brief report of the study he and his wife Maureen were doing on nesting Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls. He felt that both species were doing well in the area east of Syracuse. They found that the Butternut Creek valley between Dewitt and Lyndon harbored four pair of nesting Red-tailed Hawks and one pair of nesting Great Horned Owls. They thought it was unusual to

have so many nests in three miles, but in reading the literature, they found that one to two miles of territory were reportedly enough to support a pair of Red-tails.

In six years, Bill and Maurine observed about 70 nestings of Red-tails and 20 of Great Horned Owls. They saw "successful Red-tail nesting within 50-60 yards of a house, 40 yards from a factory parking

lot and 70 yards from the City shredder on Rock Cut Road, in a back yard in the edge of Fayetteville and a nest within 150 yards of the blasting area at the Allied quarry in Jamesville."

The January-February 1986 issue carried the third *Central New York Birding Hotspots*, written by Paul DeBenedictis, covered the always fascinating winter route along the Oswego River between Baldwinsville and Oswego. It gave detailed descriptions of where to look and what you might expect. The main stops were Baldwinsville, Phoenix, Fulton and Oswego. A drawing of an Ivory Gull by Kate Long had the comment, "The immature Ivory Gull represents hope eternal." *Fifteen years later the Ivory Gull finally appeared at Oswego Harbor. A new map of Oswego County was printed in 1999. The entire back of the map covers this river trip. Call Oswego County DPW for one free copy of this great map—315-349-8330.*

There was an account of the October 1985 Federation of New York State Bird Clubs meeting in the January-February 1986 issue of *The Kestrel*. It spoke of a paper given by the New York State Geologist, David Steadman. He analyzed bird fossils at a dig in Western New York and found that the "California" Condor was common just after the ice age.

Bob Long reported that one of our favorite birding areas, the Mahar Trail at St. Mary's Cemetery had been bulldozed with considerable loss of habitat. A few brush-nesting species would need new nesting sites.

One of our members, Tom Linda, had been hit by a train while out birding near Onondaga Lake on January 26, 1985.

He wrote of his slow recovery in the year following the accident and thanked his birding friends of OAS for their many kindnesses.

Brian Wheeler, who had spent time at Derby Hill photographing hawks, spoke at the OAS meeting on April 9, 1986. He was the illustrator for *A Field Guide to the Birds of Prey*, part of the Peterson series. Gerald Church spoke in May of his three weeks in East Africa.

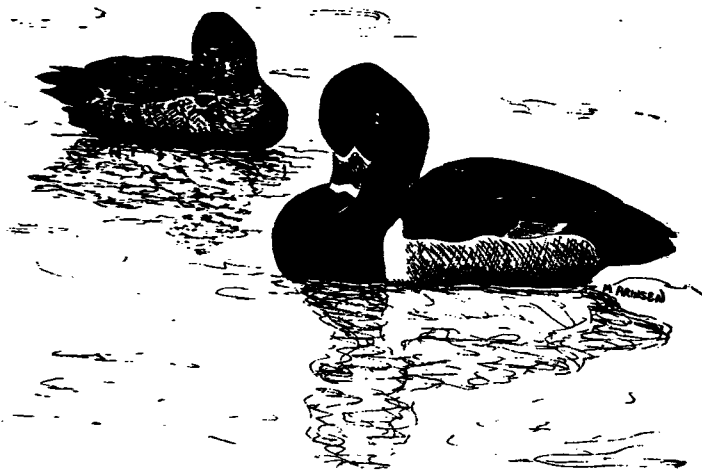
The Junior Audubon Society's Nature Club had a great time on a snowshoe trekking field trip at the Beaver Lake Nature Center on February 9, 1986. New field trips were announced for April 19—Derby Hill and May 31—Beaver Lake for wildflower identification and a spring picnic.

Central New York Birding Hotspots described birding at Noyes Sanctuary. This was Number Four of the series.

Derby Hill took a four-year loan from the Sporberg Fund to pay off the \$4,000 mortgage on the South Lookout. The savings in interest was \$1,500.

A letter to the editor from Bob Carpenter, a charter member of OAS, accompanied a remarkable gift. "While rummaging through some boxes in the attic, I came across the enclosed Volume 1 No. 1 of *The Kestrel*. I thought maybe you or someone else in OAS might like to have it." *Bob Long, editor, had been trying to collect the back issues for a long time and this was a great addition to his growing collection. He eventually received them all, from many members and former members. This 50 Year History could not have been done without them.*

Poolsbrook Marsh in Madison County was, at that time, a good area for ducks, grebes, rails, heron, and bittern in spring and fall. Jeanne Lally (now Ryan) wrote about this marsh as Birding Hotspot #5. *Access is difficult today and visiting the marsh during hunting season is discouraged.*



In September 1986, OAS moved its program meetings to the new Burnet Park Zoo conference room. Easy access, adequate parking, and excellent facilities made the board decision unanimous. Dome events had made parking for Illick Hall a serious problem.

Fritz Scheider presented the September 10th program, *The (not so) Confusing Fall Warblers*.

A New York State bill had been passed banning the importation of wild birds into the state. This would avoid the massive mortality that occurs during shipment of wild birds and possibly would act to save some species from extinction. As usual, there was opposition and the pet industry was trying to repeal the bill.

More of St. Mary's woods were cut. A large area behind Christian Brothers Academy was leveled for a sports stadium and tennis court. This penetrated into the west thicket for about 50 yards and more of the fields along Kimber Road were bulldozed for parking lots.

The Junior Audubon Society members heard a talk on bluebirds by John Rogers and were shown how to make their own boxes. Beaver Lake Nature Center offered to help with the newsletter and offered the use of their van for fall field trips.

William Minor received the 1985-1986 Service Award at the OAS banquet, and Richard Roberts and Roy Slack the Scientific Award. Bill was a founding member and has been active ever since, leading field trips, organizing the Audubon Screen Tours. He was involved with marketing *Heartland* and was serving on the Derby Hill board of managers. Dick and Roy had worked on ongoing bird-banding studies, especially at Noyes Sanctuary. Dick had been Noyes Sanctuary Chairman since OAS had acquired it in 1976.

El Dorado Beach Preserve in Jefferson County had long been of interest to OAS and its members. This was described in the September-October issue of *The Kestrel* as #6 in the series of *Central New York Birding Hot Spots*.

The \$6,500 grant from DEC to construct a parking lot and platform at Derby Hill south lookout had been frozen. DEC concluded that it could not use its own labor for construction on private land. Without the money, there would be no improvements in 1986.

Both the House and Senate were considering acid rain bills, but still no action had been taken on this serious problem.

Bill Minor's article about Purple Loosestrife in the September-October 1986 issue of *The Kestrel* was reprinted from the *Eagle Bulletin*. Loosestrife was first reported in Onondaga County by the Syracuse Botany Club in 1912. It had become increasingly common locally in the last ten

to fifteen years, "covering entire wetlands with masses of purple blooms at this time of the year."

In the final 1986 issue, it was announced that Dr. David Steadman, Senior zoologist at the New York State Museum, would review what is currently known about Ice Age fauna in the state.

Montezuma Wildlife Refuge was #7 in the series of Birding Hot Spots. The description included two maps as well as what areas to visit and what birds might be expected at various times of the year.

There was a discussion of the Environmental Quality Bond Act. "If approved by voters, it would implement a comprehensive \$1.45 billion program with three important elements: Hazardous Waste Cleanup; Land Acquisition and Industrial Sharing of Costs."

Dr. Mildred Faust had studied the flora of Onondaga County for over sixty years. She spoke to OAS on February 11, 1987 about the many new plants that have extended their ranges to Onondaga County as well as those that have become quite rare. Dr. Faust was followed in March by Dr. George Kelley, an associate professor of geology from Onondaga Community College, who spoke of glacial activity in the area over the last two million years.

Derby Hill, one of the best spring hawk lookouts in the east, was described by Gerry Smith in *Central New York Birding Hot Spots* #8. The checklist of species of birds seen there was very impressive.

Beaver Lake announced a birding trip to Point Pelee for May 22-24. Point Pelee is a peninsula that juts south from near Leamington, Ontario. It is the first place that a tired bird finds to rest in its northbound migration.

The Syracuse and Oswego Christmas bird counts on December 20 and 21, 1986 were held on relatively warm days. The total species were 76 for Syracuse and 58 for Oswego, which were average numbers.

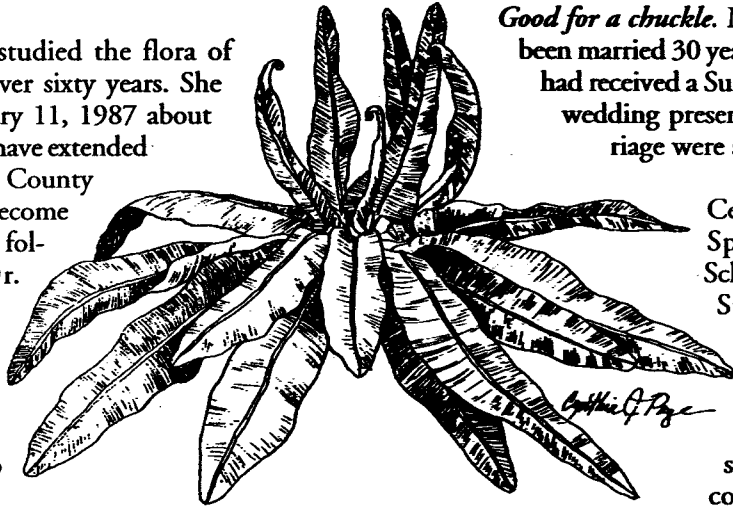
In a long article about mismanagement of funds by DEC, Ron Dodson, Audubon's Atlantic Regional Representative stated: "For too many years, the Department has focused on mainly game species and placed a heavy financial burden on the backs of a small portion of the population, the license buying public." Audubon was urging a more broad-based approach to wildlife management, the one that is based on habitat management and one that will bring the

non-game and endangered species programs to an even par with the game programs. One example of mismanagement was the \$1,628,578 spent in 1984-85 to hand raise and release Ring-necked Pheasants, a nonnative game bird for hunting purposes. This amount was more than the \$1,330,816 spent on all non-game and endangered species combined.

Birding in Texas by Dr. Jay Lehman was the program scheduled for April 8, 1987. In May Cathie Slack spoke on *Amphibians and Reptiles* in New York.

An editorial in the March-April 1987 issue stated that DEC Commissioner, Henry Williams, was leaving and would be replaced by Tom Jorling, a dedicated environmentalist. Governor Cuomo had heard of Audubon's concerns and was moving to improve the situation.

Good for a chuckle. Maureen and Bill Minor had been married 30 years as of March 2, 1987. They had received a Sunbeam toaster from OAS as a wedding present. The toaster and the marriage were still working.



Central New York Birding Hot Spots #9, written by Fritz Scheider, covered Selkirk Shores State Park in the Town of Richland, Oswego County. It combines wide habitat variety with prime positional geography. The park serves as a natural migrant bird collecting point, both spring and fall.

DEC wrote a long response to the editorial that appeared in the January-February issue of *The Kestrel*. They explained how various funds were acquired. They discussed Gift to Wildlife funds and stated that none of these tax write-off funds are used to raise and release pheasants. The pheasant propagation program costs sportsmen directly approximately \$700,000 annually.

The Audubon banquet in June featured Frank Knight speaking on *Rare and Protected Plants of New York*. Frank Knight wrote a column for the New York State magazine *The Conservationist*.

An editorial in the May-July 1987 issue *Recycling—has the time come?* begins: "We think the time has come, Henry Williams, the DEC Commissioner says the time is now, but we do not hear much from county government or the Syracuse media about recycling." The editorial continues with questions and suggestions.

There was discussion on an Essential Habitat Bill sponsored in the New York State Senate by Senator LaValle and

by Hinchey in the Assembly. The major cause of wildlife extinction is the destruction and loss of natural habitat. In New York State, current law protected endangered and threatened species themselves but not the habitat which is essential for their continued survival, reproduction and long term maintenance. The Essential Habitat legislation would help rectify the situation.

Bob Long wrote the tenth *Central New York Birding Hot Spots* covering Ferd's Bog. The bog is in Hamilton County and is one of the most unique birding areas in upstate New York. Both species of three-toed woodpeckers, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee are there year round. Northern species such as Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Rusty Blackbird nest there. *Ferd's Bog is also described in City Cemeteries to Boreal Bogs, the guide that was published several years later.*

New directions were published for St. Mary's because of the bulldozing, landscaping and muddy areas that must now be bypassed.

Gerry Smith was unanimously selected by the Board to be the recipient of the Onondaga Audubon Society's distinguished award for science in 1987. Among his many other services to OAS, he has conducted raptor counts at Derby Hill Bird Observatory every year since 1979. He has literally observed hundreds of thousands of raptors in his years of service. Gerry has also monitored Common Tern population along the St. Lawrence River and at Sandy Pond and was associated with the Rice Creek Biological Field Station in Oswego. *Gerry went on to work as a biologist with The Nature Conservancy.*

In the fall 1987 issue of *The Kestrel*, Ellie Long was welcomed as the new president of OAS and John Hanyak was thanked as a first-rate leader as well as a first-rate birder and for his two great years as President of OAS.

Reorganization of National Audubon cut out the regional staff support throughout the country. This included the staff that OAS worked with, including Walter Pomeroy and our State Representative, Ron Dodson and his associate, Nancy Chadwick. Ron, who had been the most significant person in New York State environmental matters since the days of Peter Berle, decided to continue his program in Albany under a new name, New York State Audubon.

Number 11, *Central New York Birding Hot Spots, The Southern Highlands*, was written by Dorothy Crumb. It covered six areas in Onondaga County and Georgetown in Madison County. These included Pratts Falls, Old Fly Marsh, Labrador Pond, and Highland Forest.

Robert S. Arbib was remembered by Karen Slotnick, former President of OAS. Karen had worked with Bob when he was editor of *American Birds*. He was remembered as an

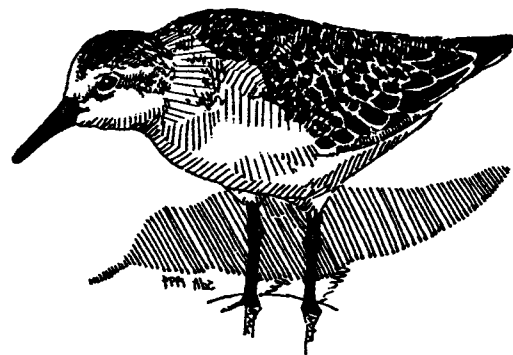
internationally known ornithologist, author and civic leader in Westchester County. Bob Arbib died on July 26, 1987.

OAS opposed the application of Hydra-Co Enterprises to operate the old coal fired steam station in Solvay. Although they proposed to improve the old boiler and reduce the sulfur and nitrous oxide emissions, the result would be some 1,000 tons of sulfur-oxide produced per month.

There was hope that progress was being made for recycling in Onondaga County. A survey of 400 households showed that 59% were willing to separate recyclables from non recyclables. The answers to other questions that were asked all favored participation. The study surprised many county officials who had speculated that people would not be interested.

A surveyor was found to complete a survey of the original Syracuse University purchase at Derby Hill. Plans were made for a nature trail through the woods. Moneys that had been allocated for the South Lookout at Derby had still not been received and it looked as though work on the parking lot and observation platform would not be completed this year.

The twelfth Hot Spot for birding was Onondaga Lake. *Once an excellent place for seeing fall shorebirds, the area described is now so overgrown with Phragmites and purple loosestrife that there is little habitat left for shorebirds and no good viewing locations. Along with all of the development for shoppers at the end of the lake, wouldn't it be great if the city or county could reclaim this one small area for birds.*



Gerald Church would again be discussing his travels on December 9 1987. This time he would describe *Israel from the Sea of Galilee to the Red Sea*. On January 13, 1988, Ken Karwowski would present *Common Terns on the St. Lawrence*.

Paul Knittel, our education chairperson and director of the Junior Audubon Program was leaving Syracuse to accept a position with the Environmental Protection Agency. There was no environmental organization in this area especially for children until Paul developed the Junior

Audubon Program. However, Paul stated that Wayne Gillespie would continue the program.

After 13 years, Richard Roberts resigned as Chairman of Noyes Sanctuary. Dick had been responsible for the sanctuary since OAS had acquired it. During his years, all of the trails had been cleared for year round use. Because of this, the numbers of visitors had increased. A bird banding station had been developed and much biological data had been collected. The banding had also been an important educational tool. A parking lot had been built so that roadside parking was no longer a necessity.

The program for February 10, 1988 was *Interesting and Uncommon Trees and Shrubs* by Donald Leopold, Professor of Forest Botany at SUNY Forestry. On March 9, Laurie Goodrich, a staff biologist at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, discussed information on the feeding habits, prey species and predation ecology of Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls.

In 1986, OAS had to fight mismanagement in the DEC. In 1987, they had to fight reorganization in National Audubon Society. 1988, it was hoped, OAS could begin to fight its enemies.

Robert Congel had proposed a large shopping center complex known as the Carousel Center in late November 1987. An Environmental Impact Statement had been provided. There seemed to be no problems with the project. However, the site, the Marley Junk Yard was shown to be a hazardous waste dump. OAS sent a written response addressing the need for a toxic cleanup and future monitoring with test wells.

Recycling was still a major project for Audubon. A new group, Recycle First, had been formed to counter the county's proposal for a large garbage burning plant.

Other major issues discussed in Bob Long's editorial were the policies of the new DEC Commissioner, Thomas Jorling, in relation to the Great Lakes; new structures at DEC; Project River Watch; the newly organized Audubon Society of New York and major problems with the Tongas National Forest in Alaska's southeastern panhandle.

A full-page list of recycling facilities in the Syracuse area was printed in the January-February 1988 issue. A number of these facilities took only a few specific items. *This is one environmental issue that had had a great deal of success. Today's recycled materials can be picked up at the curb or taken to a collection center.*

OAS decided to try a rare bird pyramid calling system. A form was included. Bob Long also wanted to create interest in keeping lists and included a short questionnaire.

Bill Minor wrote an article (using his pen name *Senex*) for the Fayetteville *Eagle Bulletin* November 1987. He described what happens when a rare bird appears. In this case, it was a Gray Kingbird, a neotropical bird that had found its way too far north. Phone calls were made and birders appeared from all over the state. Dorothy Crumb's photo of a dawn silhouetted group of birders and telescopes accompanied Bill's article.

Two longtime OAS members were the speakers for April and May 1988. Dorothy Crumb spoke on her Natural History tour of Hawaii and Bob Long returned with his show of the tree flowers of spring in Syracuse.

The March-April 1988 *Kestrel* began a series of articles to highlight other conservation organizations. Atlantic States Legal Foundation was started by Samuel Sage in 1982. Sam and some colleagues had been going after companies that were not complying with pollution standards. The results had been impressive. Companies had paid fines and streams and rivers had been cleaned up. Atlantic States Legal Foundation began branching out from Clean Water to Toxic Waste and Solid Waste management.

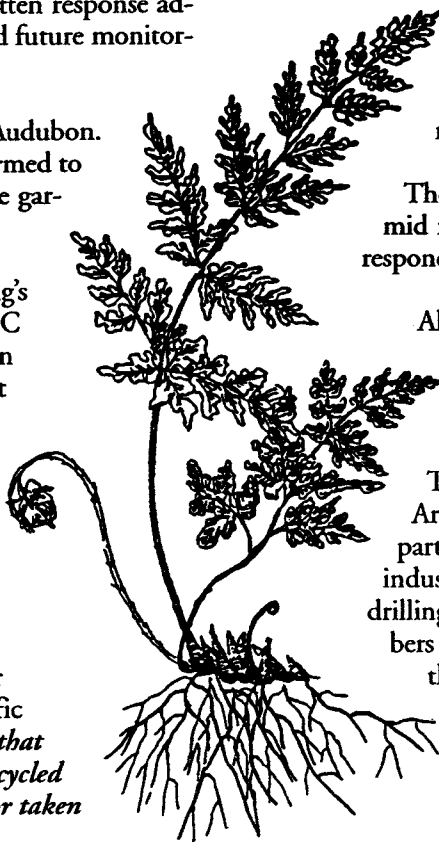
John Hanyak, active birder and past president of OAS, wrote *Central New York Birding Hot Spots #13—Camillus Valley*. This is a good area for many species of warblers, including both Golden and Blue-winged Warblers and often one or the other of the hybrids. Cuckoos, vireos, flycatchers, and woodpeckers are relatively easy to locate.

The attempt to start a birding hotline pyramid met with little success. Only 20 birders responded.

Also in the March-April issue was a long article about the problems of disposing of toxic ash from garbage incinerators. This matter had no immediate solution.

There was also more information on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of the Interior was backing the oil industry in an effort to open the refuge to oil drilling. It was recommended that the members write their senators to let them know that they oppose this drilling.

Gerry Smith would be speaker at the June 15, 1988 banquet at the Glenloch Restaurant in Jamesville. Gerry presented a program on some of the mi-



gration data from ten years of study. Elva Hawken was scheduled to open the fall meetings by showing how she sets up and operates a bird banding station in her own yard.

Bill and Maureen Minor had sold their house and planned to move to Virginia. Bill had been a member since OAS began in 1951 and had served OAS in many capacities. After he met and married Maureen, they tackled many tasks together—such as finding and tallying Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owl nests.

Everything pointed to the possibility that Onondaga County would soon begin a major recycling program. A recycling coordinator had been appointed by the county and the local press was expressing more interest.

Not only was National Audubon having budget problems, but in 1988, OAS found it was spending more than was coming in. Costs for several active committees had increased. Sanctuaries, insurance, publication expenses were among the items that had rapidly increasing costs. The Kestrel would have to make major cutbacks in the size of future issues, for costs of paper, printing and mailing had gone up 40% in the past two years.

Save the County was the second Environmental Organization to be described. Save the County had one goal since its establishment in 1972—to preserve unique natural areas in Onondaga County. Each year they have a major fund raising event, the Walk to Save the County. This organization was started by members of OAS and many of them had served on the Save the County board. Karen Slotnick, past president of OAS had been director of Save the County for a number of years. They had purchased or received by gift many acres of pristine land in Onondaga County, including Baltimore Woods, 38 acres in Whiskey Hollow, 88 acres in Elbridge Swamp, and many others. All Save the County properties are open to the public.

Richard French (*That is not a typographical error*), who wrote *The Guide to Birds of Trinidad and Tobago*, spoke on that subject at the October 12, 1988 meeting. He also autographed his book for several members.

It was reported in the September-October 1988 issue that the Big Run, of necessity, had become a fund-raising event. There was a looming budget deficit of over \$1,000 and OAS members found sponsors for their teams and raised \$940. Judy Thurber's team was the grand champion, raising \$287.75, almost one third of the total.

Work days at Noyes, Derby Hill, and St. Mary's were scheduled for the fall, most of it concerning trail maintenance. Members were asked to volunteer.

The last issue of 1988 listed *Breeding Behavior of Red-shouldered Hawks* by Glenn Johnson as the program for November 9th and *Church in Africa* by Gerry Church for December 14th.

Noyes Sanctuary had found a new manager, Judy Linder. The response to the request for volunteers was excellent with sixteen people showing up prepared for action. The new board at Noyes had four members, Judy Linder, Gerry Smith, Mary Alice Koeneke, and Georgia Gillespie.

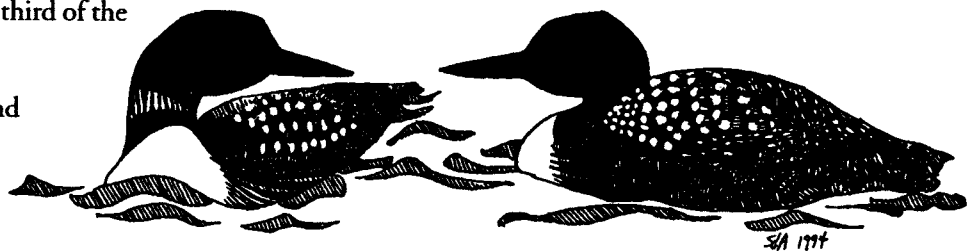
The first half (\$1,250) of the New York State Department of State grant for information kiosks and a waterfowl blind at Sage Creek at the base of Derby Hill had been received. Work would be started in the spring.

DEC Commissioner Jorling ruled against the Hydra-Co generation plant that OAS had opposed. Sandhill Crane migration habitat along the Platte River was given a boost by the decision of the Governor of Colorado to oppose one of the proposed dams of the Platte and the U. S. Forestry Service decided to protect the habitat of the Spotted Owl. But there were also losses to the environment including the sale of a vast tract of land in the Adirondack Park to a land development company.

At the end of November 1988, OAS purchased a new MacIntosh computer and printer. Dorothy Crumb agreed to take the membership position and transferred all of the membership information from 3 x 5 cards to the computer. *Ruth Knight and others before her handled all of this data by typing duplicate cards for each new member each month. It must have been much more time consuming than entering it once into a computer.*

The first item to be reported in the January-February 1989 *Kestrel* was the death of Mildred Faust at age 88. For 65 years Mildred was a teacher, lecturer, and field expert in botany. She was responsible for discovering many rare species of plants in New York State. Mildred was a 50-year member of National Audubon who gave her first program to OAS in 1957 and had returned many times as one of our most popular and beloved speakers.

Recycling continued to gain momentum in the county. The city and the towns were starting up recycling centers. All members were encouraged to take their recyclables to the nearest center and to encourage their friends and neighbors to do the same.



David Ryan wrote an article about his first experience on a Christmas bird count. One of his early thoughts as they got into the car before dawn, dark and very cold was, "Why would some people do this?" But he wound up enjoying himself, particularly when they gathered at the Longs in late afternoon over the chili bowls. One species new to the count that year—1988 was Wild Turkey. *This species has exploded since and usually shows up on all of the counts.*

The editor, Bob Long, wrote an article on heavy metals, explaining that they are so called because they have a higher molecular count than others. He listed seven of these and the adverse health affect that each had.

National Audubon hired David Miller to reopen the Northeast Regional office in Albany. David Miller was past executive director of Great Lakes United and he had worked in National Audubon's Washington office as a member of Scenic Hudson, Inc.

The spring issue announced that Wayne Gillespie, an OAS member and a native of Illinois, would give a program in April on Beall Woods State Park in Southern Illinois. Beall Woods is home to the best example of virgin timber remaining from the Eastern Deciduous Forest. The May program by Dr. Milo Richmond from Cornell University would tell of *Management and Restoration of Common Terns on Oneida Lake.*



The Derby Hill board had lost three of its members and John Hanyak was searching for replacements.

Four pieces of 1989 legislation were recommended for support by Onondaga Audubon Society. Essential Habitat was being reintroduced, increase in license fee for conservation fund, rivers protection bill and recapturing unclaimed bottle deposits.

The annual banquet at the Cavalry Club on June 14, 1989 would feature Lee and Karen Rentz from Beaver Lake Nature Center with their program about Newfoundland. John Hanyak received the Service Award. John had been program chairman for three years starting in 1982. He was elected Vice-president in 1983 and became President of OAS in 1985. After his two years as President, he became Chairman of the Derby Hill board of managers.

Again National Audubon was asking our support by writing Senators and Representatives urging them to vote against oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Bob Long continued his report on toxics, this time concentrating on Pesticides. He named the four categories of pesticides used today, what they were and discussed the possible health problems that they caused.

The September-October 1989 issue of *The Kestrel* reported that over two thousand dollars had been raised in the 1989 birdathon held on May 20. Jim Graves' team, the Night-Herons, raised over \$500. The Black-necked Stilt, a bird never seen before in Region 5 was the prize species found for the birdathon.

This fall issue was a sad one. Fritz Scheider, who had joined OAS in its early years, died on May 19th, the day before the birdathon. Fritz was a well-known Pediatrician. His hobby was birding and active birders knew him well as "their fearless leader." He rarely attended Audubon meetings, but was active leading field trips and working tirelessly for the development and financing of Derby Hill. As a Boy Scout leader in earlier years, he had introduced his love of birds to many boys, including two boys who lost interest for a time, but eventually came back to the hobby. These boys as grown men also became active in OAS—John Hanyak and Tom Shuman. Fritz's influence was also felt in the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, for he was Region 5 Editor for their publication, *The Kingbird*, for 22 years. *Strange as it may sound, many birders felt the Black-necked Stilt appearing for our birdathon was a final gift from our long-time leader.*

In November 1989, Sandra Bonanno spoke of the ecology and conservation of Lake Ontario dunes. Wayne Klockner of the Nature Conservancy spoke in December about protecting natural diversity in Central and Western New York.

A memorial fund had been established to remember Dr. F. G. (Fritz) Scheider. The funds were to be used to establish a nature trail through the woods at Derby Hill. This trail was completed with many species of trees labeled and is today a big part of a spring trip to Derby Hill.

An observation blind overlooking the Sage Creek marsh was completed. During construction, workers were treated to views of two newly-fledged Great Horned Owls being fed, Least Bitterns, Black Terns and many of the marsh birds building nests in front of the blind. Also under construction were three information kiosks to be installed at the marsh, the South Lookout and next to the main house. The bathroom at the cottage was remodeled with a new floor and fixtures. After the death of Fritz Scheider, his family donated many of his journals to the Derby Hill

Library. Several shadbush trees had been planted near the Derby Hill entrance at the top of the hill in memory of Mildred Faust.

The City of Syracuse recycling center began accepting newsprint, office paper, cardboard, all glass, aluminum, tin cans, ferrous metals, hard plastics, paint, and used oil.

There was a long article about the September Federation of New York State Bird Clubs meeting in Auburn. Several OAS members attended, but it was hoped that more interest would be shown in the future. The 43rd Annual Meeting in 1990 would be held in Riverhead, Long Island.

The oil companies and their allies were attempting to ram through a bill in Congress that would limit their liability in any single tanker spill. The new bill would create a maximum liability of \$60 million. The Exxon Valdez spill had already cost \$700 million for cleanup in Prince William Sound, Alaska and environmentalists felt the cleanup was far from complete. If the bill passed there would be no economic incentives for oil companies to guard against future spills.

January-February 1990 programs announced were a photography night for members in February and Dorothy Crumb showing slides of Western birds and flowers on March 14th.

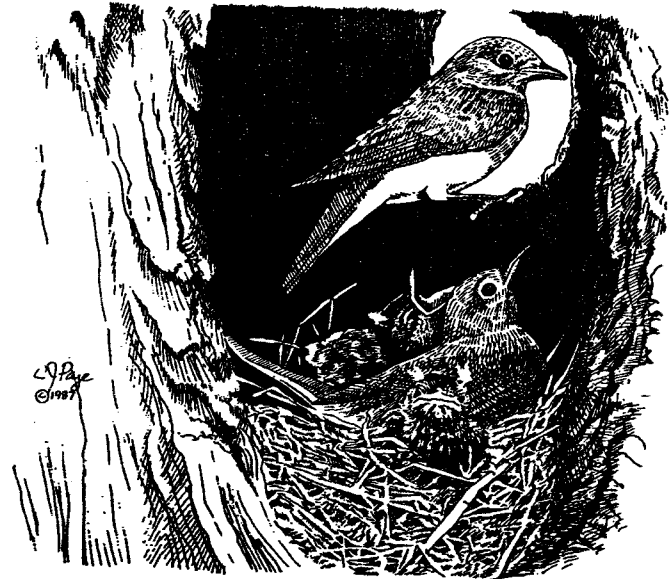
The editor wrote about the Two Forks issue where a dam was proposed to provide water for Denver. The Environmental Protection Agency announced it would continue the veto process over the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so that the dam could not be built. The environmental cost of the proposed project would be staggering. At the proposed dam site in the South Platte River a thirty mile stretch of the river, Cheesman Canyon would be flooded. Cheesman Canyon is a world class fishery and recreation area. At times it would virtually dry up the riverbed downstream where a half-million Sandhill Cranes, 90 per cent of the population, depend on the river during migration. It would also adversely affect several endangered species of birds. OAS members were urged to continue the fight to see that Two Forks was overturned.

John Hanyak and Judy Linder, managers at Derby Hill and Noyes, thanked volunteers who had helped to maintain the two sanctuaries. Both were asking for continued support.

Also, John Hanyak and Dorothy Crumb had compiled a list of 350 species of birds that have been seen in Region 5. Four were no longer found here, others were rare or unusual. Birds printed in italics should be reported to New York State Avian Records Committee and birds in bold face were unusual and of local interest. They should be reported to the local Rare Bird Alert. This list was printed in its entirety in the January-February 1990 *Kestrel*.

The Syracuse Christmas count for 1989 was postponed a week because of a heavy winter storm. But still it hit extremely cold weather ranging from minus four degrees to twelve above. There was very little open water for ducks and geese. Also there were few observers because of the count coming two days before Christmas. The number of species was 55 compared to 73 in 1988. The Oswego count had continued on December 17th, but also had few observers, only eleven, and a low count of 54 species.

In April 1990, John Rogers spoke of his Eastern Bluebird trails, their protection and ecology. This was followed in May with Bob Long's update on flowering trees with new species and some new slides of old favorites.



An uncommon orchid and unique moth occurred in a nutrient poor fen just north of Selkirk Shores State Park in Oswego County. The buck moth is known to occur at only five sites in the world. A nearby campground was threatening the unique wetland by requesting permission to build a sewage pipe across it.

Niagara Mohawk wrote a letter which started as follows: "We are disappointed in the stated conclusions of your board, noted in a recent editorial in *The Kestrel* on the future operation and management of Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point One Nuclear plant. It seems unfortunate that you apparently chose to reach those conclusions without seeking any facts from those most knowledgeable of the current condition of the plant and its management: Niagara Mohawk or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission." The letter goes on to tell why it is important to restart the plant as soon as approvals are received. The letter was from L. Burkhardt III, Executive Vice President of Nuclear Operations at Niagara Mohawk.

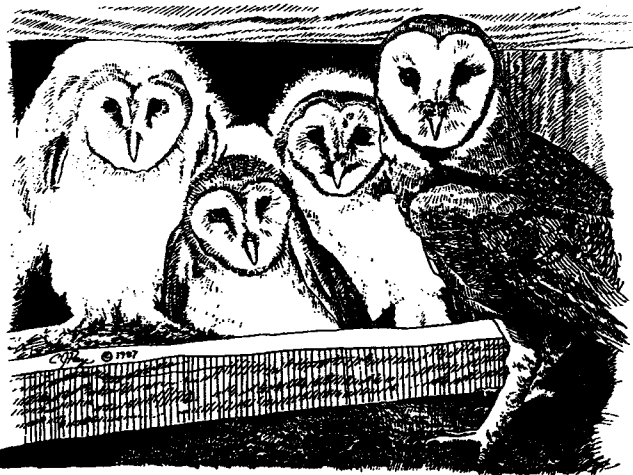
Ferdinand LaFrance also wrote a letter protesting the board's decision. One of his statements was, "It irks me when people are anti this and anti that without offering an alternative

solution to the problem....Don't get me wrong, we should all strive for better ways but in the meantime we have to realize what is best for the present."

The Audubon Council of New York met in Albany March 3, 1990. Ellie Long and Kay McIntyre attended from OAS. Dave Miller, National Audubon representative for New York, announced a number of important environmental bills, including these three priority items: Environmental Quality Bond Act, Endangered Species Protection Act of 1990, and Citizen Suit Bill.

A new idea was started for those who kept lists of the species of birds seen within the American Birding Association's boundaries for the U.S., birds seen in New York State and in Region 5. These lists were published for the first time in March-April 1990. Fourteen people had responded to the request to send in lists.

The annual banquet would be held at the Cavalry Club on June 6, 1990. The speaker was Ray Blaskiewicz, former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researcher speaking on *Barn Owl Ecology*.



Earth Day was celebrated at Derby Hill on Sunday, April 22nd with 306 visitors and 999 birds of prey. The tally included two Golden Eagles and 700 Broad-winged Hawks. A number of Canadians came by bus to help celebrate. Noyes Sanctuary had field trips and also saw migrating hawks as well as many species of small birds feeding in the trees along the trails.

Kay McIntyre, Conservation Chair, reported that wetlands, so critical to a stable environment, were disappearing at the alarming rate of 250,000 acres per year. Peter Berle asked the question, "Can we make a better world for ourselves and for future generations in the coming decade?" He continued, "The answer will depend on our ability to reduce the rate of global warming; slow the tide of destruction sweeping over the rainforests and critical ecosystems around the globe; find practical, renewable, and clean energy sources; turn back the explosive rate of population

growth; recognize and protect vital land and water resources; and affirm our will to live in harmony with all life on Earth." *How did we rate in the decade of the 90s?*

A Syracuse Rare Bird Alert had finally happened. OAS had a new telephone answering machine installed at Dorothy Crumb's house. The tape would be updated once a week unless a real rarity appeared. *One of my favorite sightings that was reported was an extremely cooperative Hawk Owl that spent some time roosting right next to Route 5 in Chittenago, Madison County. People came from many places in the northeastern part of the United States and southern Canada and many of them were kind enough to report their success.*

The birdathon in May raised over \$2,500. Half of the total was sent to National Audubon to be distributed to Dave Miller, our National representative in Albany.

On September 12, 1990 Marge Rusk spoke to OAS of her visit to Nicaragua with Witness for Peace and a family trip to Costa Rica. Ron Dodson from New York Audubon visited in October to tell of some of the future plans for the society.

Wayne Gillespie reported that throughout the 1989-1990 school year, nineteen classrooms in Onondaga and Oswego counties received the *Audubon Adventures* subscription which are published by National Audubon. A total of 570 students received information on various environmental topics geared toward 4th to 6th grade students.

Gerry Smith's 1990 spring raptor count at Derby Hill showed a record number of Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. Cooper's Hawks had a record low count. The total for all species was 39,400.

Chairman John Hanyak thanked Sue and John Adair for the artwork on the newly completed kiosks. There were many favorable comments on the final project. More help was requested to finish the Fritz Scheider wildflower/nature trail through the woods and to complete other necessary projects and maintenance.

Dorothy Crumb reported on the newly established Rare Bird Alert. It started in May of 1990 and rarities included Laughing Gull, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Acadian Flycatcher. Dorothy requested birders to call in especially in slow seasons to make it easier to create an interesting report.

The 1990 Birdathon located 182 species, which was the third highest count ever, despite gusty winds all along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The count included one new bird for the total regional list. Laughing Gull brought the overall total to 254. Dick Askeland wrote about his pleasurable experience as a first time Birdathoner. He worked with the Wild Turkey team in the southern highlands and on to

Sylvan/Verona Beaches where they were the only team to report the Laughing Gull.

Lee and Karen Rentz, who had been so active in OAS and Lee as director of Beaver Lake Nature Center, were awarded a plaque as a token of appreciation from OAS. Lee and Karen were moving to Seattle where Lee would pursue a career in freelance photography.

Michael Ingraldi had taken over Bill Minor's study of Red-tailed Hawks and Great Horned Owls and spoke of his findings at the November 14, 1990 OAS meeting. Gerry Church came on December 12 to talk about *The Natural and Cultural History of Belize*.

Bob Long wrote a favorable book review of Dorothy Crumb's book *Owls 'n Things*. He spoke of the various chapters on local birding as well as some of her more memorable trips. He also told of how well Cindy Page's black and white illustrations went with the text. Everyone was urged to attend the book signing by author and illustrator on November 18, 1990.

A grand and gracious lady died in late 1990. Dorothy Ackley from Oneida was in her 90s and had been an active birder for many years. As Belle Peebles wrote, "She guided

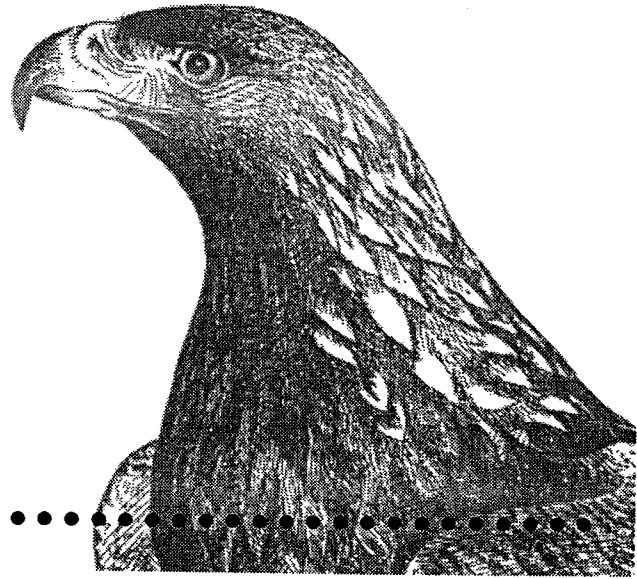


the Oneida Bird Club through its early years and was the 'power behind the throne' that kept us going in the right direction. She was an agreeable, uncomplaining and cheerful companion in every situation."

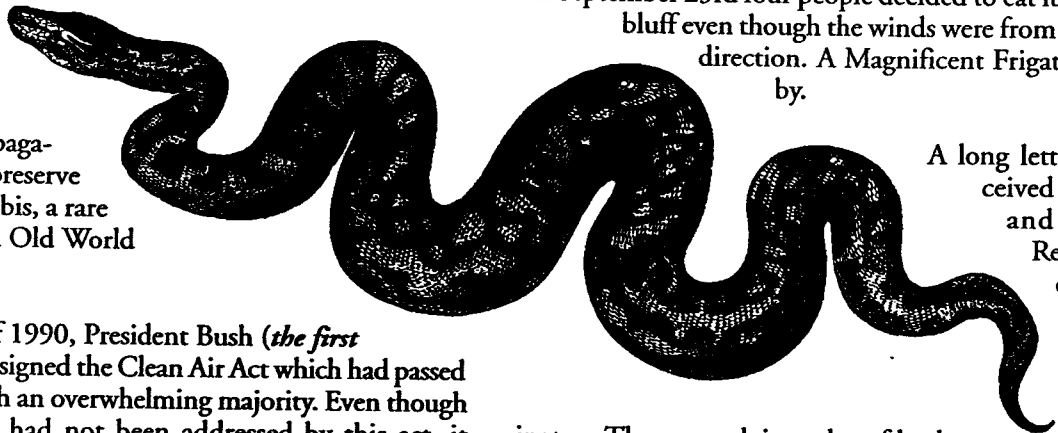
Ruth Englebrecht was another loss. Both Bob Long and Dick Askeland told of Ruth's sunny disposition and willingness to do what she could for an individual or group. She was active in OAS in the 1970s and 1980s and went on many of the field trips. Her family and friends established a fund in her memory which would be used as a scholarship fund for one or more teachers to attend an Audubon camp during the summer. *This fund continues a decade later and many of the teachers have reported at meetings how much they have benefited from this camp.*

The last item for the last issue was a short paragraph by Bob Long. He said, "It was a dark, foggy day as we started for Rochester. A rainy wind pelted us and tried to slap our car from the road. But with sights set for the big 600, we pressed on. What luck! At Hamlin Beach the rain stopped and lines of birders bristled for action. Soon a Harrier came by working the field and up popped a milestone sighting. Number 600! The Fork-tailed Flycatcher."

1991-2001



The January-February newsletter mentioned programs concerning two endangered species. In February Glenn Johnson, a SUNY-ESF graduate student, spoke of conservation measures for the state endangered Eastern Massasauga, New York's rarest snake. In March, Jeff Gereneser, a student at SUNY-Oswego, spoke on captive propagation efforts to preserve the Waldrapps Ibis, a rare and endangered Old World species.



In November of 1990, President Bush (*the first President Bush*) signed the Clean Air Act which had passed both houses with an overwhelming majority. Even though some problems had not been addressed by this act, it marked a victory for National Audubon.

On the conservation front, Kay McIntyre reported on the thousands of miles of monofilament gill nets used on the Pacific Ocean. One six month study of a Japanese squid fleet listed the large numbers of marine wildlife that were killed in addition to the three million squid. These included tuna, shark, marine mammals and seabirds. The United Nations have called for a moratorium on drift nets by 1992. Also a review of gains and losses on the environmental front for 1990 was given.

A letter was published that had been written from Japan by Akiko Kawasaki. Akiko had been a member of OAS while she was a student at Syracuse University. *The Kestrels* are sent to Akiko and they inspired her to write about birds she sees around her home in Japan.

The January-February 1991 issue reported that there were 271 species of birds seen in Region 5 in 1990. Eighteen were not on the regular checklist and two seen at Derby Hill had never been found in this region previously. On May 10th, a few lucky people saw a Mississippi Kite and on September 23rd four people decided to eat lunch at the bluff even though the winds were from the wrong direction. A Magnificent Frigatebird flew by.

A long letter was received from Lee and Karen Rentz telling of their life near Olympia, Washington.

They were doing a lot of back-ing and learning to enjoy many of the wild foods available. Karen had found a good job as a legal secretary and enjoyed her work and the people she worked with. Lee was "playing the role of a struggling artist, testing myself to see how well I can do as a nature photographer/writer."

A recent ruling by the New York State Department of Health that spraying mosquitoes to prevent Eastern Equine Encephalitis can not commence until the virus has been isolated from carrier mosquitoes was welcome news. President Bush was pushing oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and in our coastal waters. The conservation chairman suggested that OAS members write to senators and representatives asking that they formulate an energy policy and stress conservation. In this issue, March-April, 1991, there was a long article on the impact of Zebra Mussels by Mary Alice Koeneke. They were a major disruption to the food chain by eating the plankton that is

valuable food for other marine species. Their impact would be felt by the fishing industry, public water supplies, power plants and the industries and recreational/commercial navigation. There were means of control—all expensive and many not really effective. The Zebra Mussel would likely be a permanent resident of the Great Lakes.

Jean Propst, one of the very early members of OAS, died on February 22, 1991. In writing about her in the March-April issue, Dorothy Crumb ended, "Jean saw many species of birds each year, but never liked to have to walk very far. Fritz Scheider called the distance she would walk from the car a 'Propst Unit.' She has now reached the end of that unit and we shall miss her."

For the second year in a row, the January 13-20 waterfowl count had warm weather and open water. One duck new for the count was a Harlequin Duck found on the Oswego River. There were 26 species for the count, which was above average and a total of 12,418 individuals, a number that had not been equaled since 1964.

Several large tracts of land in the Adirondacks were up for sale. Audubon President, Peter Berle, has urged Governor Cuomo to create a fund for land acquisition and easement to enable us to safeguard much of this critical land. OAS members were also urged to write Governor Cuomo.

Five lists were printed from people who had seen species in the ABA, the Lower 48, their yards, New York State, and Region 5. As Bob Long wrote, "A small trickle from last year changed into an 'avalanche of avian enthusiasts' as the results poured in."

A program about John J. Audubon was given at the Audubon Banquet in June; Steve Kress was to present an update on the restoration of water birds on Eastern Egg Rock off the coast of Maine in September.

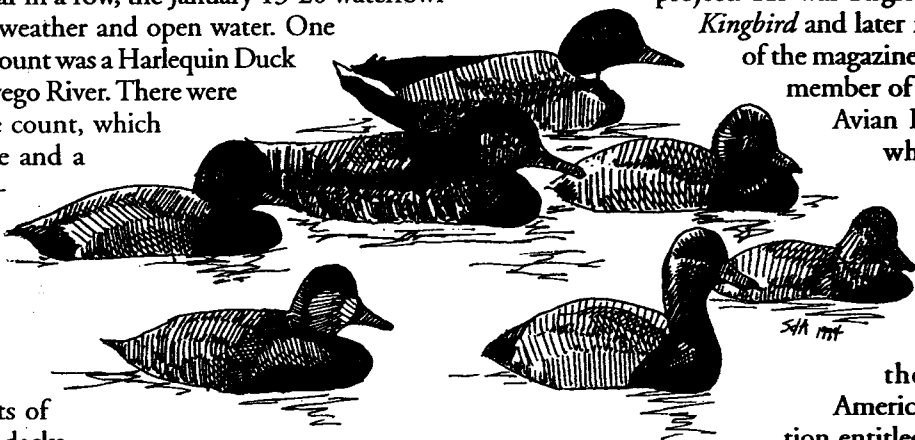
Bobbie Monroe received the first Ruth Engelbrecht scholarship to Audubon summer session for teachers at the Audubon camp in Connecticut. Bobbie is a teacher in the Homer, New York school system.

There was a schedule for the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs annual meeting in September. It was to be hosted by Onondaga Audubon Society. Dorothy Crumb and Judy Thurber were co-chairs of the meeting. Gerry Smith was in charge of workshops, Mary Alice Koeneke

was chair for the Papers Session and Marge Rusk was in charge of field trips.

Service Awards were presented to Kathy Palm, Ron Palm, and the Fulton Boiler Works. Kathy and Ron had built a house on the bluff across from Derby Hill and have contributed a great deal to Derby as good neighbors and have made donations. Their company, the Fulton Boiler Works, has been most generous over the years in providing the society with gifts to obtain the two properties which contain the Sage Creek Marsh habitat.

Paul DeBenedictis received the Scientific award. Paul has done much for Onondaga Audubon Society. He was assistant coordinator for Region 5 for the New York State Atlas project. He was Region 5 Editor for *The Kingbird* and later moved on to Editor of the magazine. He was a founding member of the New York State Avian Records Committee which examines and verifies all reports of rare birds for the official New York State records. He also wrote a column for the journal of the American Birding Association entitled *Gleanings from the Technical Literature*.



Dick Askeland told of a redwood compost bin that could be obtained from Cornell Cooperative Extension. And the City of Syracuse DPW had a mountain of mulch that was free for the taking. *Recycling at its most natural*.

On October 9, 1991, Sam Sadove, director of the Okeanos Oceanic Research Foundation, discussed his recent expedition in the Arctic Ocean. Sam was a good friend to the many OAS members who had been on his whale and sea-bird trips out of Montauk, Long Island.

Letters to the governor were requested to stop New York State from signing a contract to accept electricity from the massive James Bay Hydro project. There would be destruction of the area due to flooding and the future prospect of more damage from toxic spills.

The 1990-91 Annual Report was included in the September issue of *The Kestrel*. Larry Linder spoke of his rewarding experience as President of OAS for the last two years. He told of various things that had been accomplished at the sanctuaries and through education and conservation. He thanked the many volunteers who had helped to make this possible.

Dorothy Crumb reported that she felt the Rare Bird Alert was a great success in its first full year of operation. She had tried to keep up with at least one new report each week, but during the migration seasons, the numbers of reports had increased and there were a total of 76 for the year. The comings and goings of many regular birds were reported and also a number of rarities. The most unusual for the year was the Magnificent Frigatebird, never seen in Region 5 before. Rare birds from outside Region 5 were also included on some tapes.

At Noyes, major effort was spent reclaiming an overgrown meadow. Help was received from many members plus weekend help from a local Boy Scout troop. Bob Asanoma did a major amount of the work on weekends. Five new metal signs were on order that would have Sanctuary hours and rules. Judy Linder, manager, and the board thanked everyone who had helped.

OAS paid for subscriptions to *Audubon Adventures* to be sent to nineteen classrooms. Each issue contained a different environmental topic that was geared to fourth to sixth graders.

John Hanyak, retiring chairman of the Derby Hill board of managers, gave details of the Fritz G. Scheider memorial trail that had been planned and laid out ready for the September dedication. He also reported that a new roof was going to be installed on the cottage and that Derby Hill now had a new lawn tractor, cart, and brush cutter for mowing and trail maintenance.

Marge Rusk announced a new record high of 185 species for the May 11th Birdathon.

The last issue of *The Kestrel* in 1991 announced Gene Hocutt from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge as speaker for November, and Phil Clarke, an OAS member, was to talk about landscaping for birds in December.

A picture of the trailhead for the FGS trail was shown in the December *Kestrel*. The trailhead held a large glacial erratic with a plaque and landscaping around it done by



Phil Clarke. The start of the trail could be seen behind it. Approximately 125 people came to the dedication, including four generations of the Scheider family and some of his friends from childhood and scouting days. Fritz's former partner, Bob Pastel, his wife Bea and some of their children attended. Bill Brockner and his wife from Colorado came to pay respects to Fritz. Bill was one of the founders of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and had known Fritz since 1950. After the dedication, Fritz's mother cut the ribbon. Many people walked the two-mile trail after lunches had been served in a large tent.

Gary Lee, friend to many local birders, was named by the New York State Conservation Council as Conservation Educator of the year for 1991. Gary is a resident of Inlet and had been a State DEC forest ranger for 27 years. There was little he didn't know about the vegetation, birds, and animals of the forest and he is always willing to try to share that knowledge. *When Gary retired a few years later, he became a licensed Adirondack guide and still does the work he likes best—showing people his beautiful country.*

There were many threats to the Adirondack Park. Adirondack Advocates, through the National Audubon's northeast office was trying to enroll people in an informal network to receive action alerts so they could contact their senators or representatives for help on critical legislation on the Adirondack Park.

Bobbie Monroe reported on her exciting visit to the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut with 25 other teachers from Eastern United States. She thanked OAS for providing her the opportunity and learning experience. She encouraged other teachers to attend a workshop.

OAS members were going to help develop bird lists for five state parks. Volunteers were needed for all seasons. Leaders were listed for each park: Chittenango Falls, Ruth Knight; Clark Reservation, Sue Adair; Green Lakes, Marge Rusk; Selkirk Shores, Bill Purcell; and Verona Beach, Phil Clarke.

Ben Burt, a retired Chemistry Professor from Syracuse University, spoke of the biological effects of power lines, computer terminals, electric blankets, and other electric devices at the OAS meeting on February 12, 1992. Ken Karwowski had worked for the Atlantic Center for the Environment. He gave a program in March concentrating on the breeding biology of seabirds and the factors that are impacting those species.

Most environmentalists felt that the Onondaga County incinerator would be approved. Therefore, OAS was recommending that the smaller of two models be approved so that the pressure to recycle continued. The Endangered Species Act was up for reauthorization and faced tough opposition from development interests. Members were asked to write their representatives and ask them to sup-

port a package of amendments to the Endangered Species Act to strengthen it.

Phil Clarke, *OAS resident poet*, wrote a marvelous take-off of Clement Moore's famous Christmas poem. Phil wrote of the anticipation and the hope of winning the OAS stuffed owl prize for the most unusual species found. He brought in the Longs' post-count party and named many OAS members who participated. Phil read his poem at the party and was roundly applauded. The count was held on December 14, 1991 with mild weather and open water, which resulted in a record count of 83 species of birds.

The Oswego Count, on the other hand, had to be postponed from the 15th to the 21st because of extremely high winds and white-out snow conditions in Oswego. On the alternate day, 61 species were located which was five above the thirty year average. A Common Raven was found—new for the Oswego count. The Skaneateles count on December 28th had good winter weather and volunteers exceeded the old species count of 72 by three more. There was also a long list of rarities, including the most unusual, an American Woodcock. The last of four counts was Montezuma on January 1, 1992 with an unusually—for Central New York—high temperature of 48 degrees and sunny skies, gentle winds. With only 13 observers, the species total of 64 was very good.

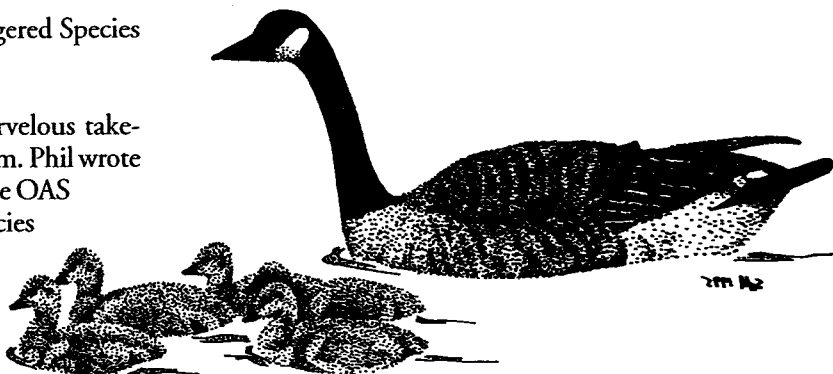
A photograph of a Northern Hawk Owl taken by Thelma Emory accompanied an article about the owl found in Canastota on January 5th by Sheila McCombie. People came from many parts of the state to see this rare winter visitor. There were only two previous records for Northern Hawk Owl in Region 5 and they had been 15 or 16 years previously.



There were more attacks on the Adirondack Park and legislature had been forced through the New York Senate Finance Committee to abolish the Adirondack Park Agency. The Wetlands Reform Act of 1992 had been introduced in the House on February 19th. National Audubon played a key role in drafting this bill, which was designed to strengthen federal protection of wetlands.

In 1992 the Waterfowl Count increased by 10,000 individuals over the past year—with a total count of 22,869. There was open water everywhere and many species records.

In the May-July 1992 newsletter the announcement was made that Lynda Bruce of Liverpool would be attending



an Audubon Ecology Workshop in the summer. Lynda, a 7th grade life sciences teacher was recipient of the 1992 Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship.

An engineer at GE had proposed a wetland border along the shore of Onondaga Lake from Nine Mile Creek to Ley Creek to intercept and filter the outflow through a planned 350 acre marsh. This plan is the first to propose remediation by natural means and required no long term studies.

There were three important bills on the New York Legislative Agenda for 1992. An Environmental Trust Fund bill would create a fund for the state's open space, clean water and solid waste programs. In the Senate, a James Bay bill was proposed that was a companion bill to one passed in the Senate. It would provide an environmental review process for any future contracts with Hydro Quebec. Another Assembly bill would provide some strengthening of the Adirondack Agency.

Ruth Knight reported that so far there had been 40 volunteers helping to prepare bird lists for five State Parks. A summary of the winter effort had been turned over to Diane Wheelock, the Regional Environmental Education Coordinator. Spring migration was starting and evidence of nesting also needed to be collected.

An announcement was made that the 1992 Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was meeting in Oneonta in late September. Roger Tory Peterson was to be the speaker.

Jim Throckmorton wrote an article about his experience of trying to sort out the "Smallish, Blackish Birds in Region 5." He said he had lived "for about two years on the far north side of Los Angeles where the Brewer's Blackbird is the common, like under your feet at shopping malls, etc., blackbird." Jim goes on to say that color alone is difficult because it changes with light conditions. But the straight bill, small head, and long square tail are good marks for the Brewer's and look for glossy, not dull plumage as seen in the more common Rusty Blackbird.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge dedicated the Walter E. Benning shorebird management area on Sunday November 3, 1991. Refuge manager Gene Hocutt, citing

countless hours of birding on the Refuge and enthusiasm devoted to the shorebirds found there" dedicated the marsh to Walter, who was present with his family.

David White talked about the Sea Grant Program at the September meeting followed by Eric Sie and protection of the Adirondacks in October.

President Mary Alice Koenke spoke of the many accomplishments of OAS and its members this year. This included considerable work on both sanctuaries, 44 field trips, hosting the Federation annual meeting, conservation efforts, and raising nearly \$1,500 with the Birdathon.

The RBA reported many unusual species, including a Western Grebe and a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Little and Franklin's Gulls, and Forster's Tern were at Sylvan Beach for one of the Federation field trips. A pair of Merlins returned to Onondaga Park to spend their second winter. A first for Region 5 was a LeConte's Sparrow found May 7th at Nine Mile Point by Mary Alice Koenke.

Another long-time birder, Kate Coyle, died on July 20, 1992. Kate was always willing to drop everything to chase an unusual species of bird. She helped with the Breeding Bird Atlas. Kate was also very interested in wildflowers and kept accurate records of when each flower bloomed. Benches were placed at the Derby Hill bluff with plaques in memory of Kate Coyle and Jean Propst who had died the previous year.

Under conservation notes for the state, the Environmental Trust Fund was defeated. The Quebec Hydro-power Project was vetoed by Governor Cuomo. The Adirondack Park problems were not resolved. Nationally many environmental issues were still being fought. For the moment, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was safe. Drift nets were being phased out.

On December 9, 1992, OAS planned an active program. Jim Aiello, Curator of Education at the Burnet Park Zoo, led a nighttime tour of the zoo to observe the nocturnal activities and sounds of the animal population. *My many forgetful "Senior Moments" do not let me forget this, one of my favorite programs. It was a clear, cold, sparkling night with fresh snow on the ground and a nearly full moon. The animals along the walks seemed to enjoy our visit as much as we enjoyed seeing the ever active red wolves; the bears squeezing into their den through the rock entrance that looked way too narrow; the various species of owls and so many other cold-loving nocturnal creatures.*

The last issue of *The Kestrel* in 1992 introduced a new editor. After eight years at the helm, Bob Long turned the publishing business over to Phil Clarke.

For the first time, Double-crested Cormorants were mentioned as a conservation problem at the Audubon Council meeting held in Delmar September 18th and 19th. Their numbers had increased so much in the last few years that fisherman claimed they were eating too many fish. There was also a discussion of moose reestablishment. The Adirondack Park campaign was gaining momentum with recent articles in National Magazines. This was the first time a state park was highlighted in a nationally-oriented magazine. National Audubon Society was building a new headquarters in Manhattan. It would have state-of-the-art, environmentally sound technologies.

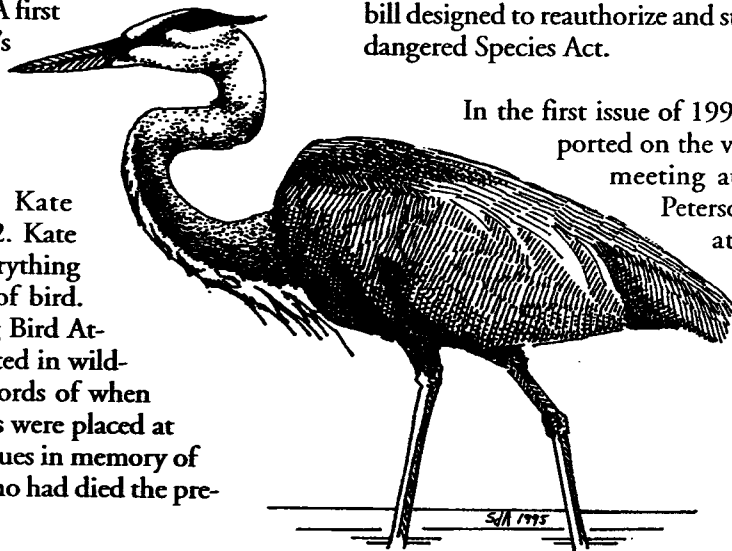
Representative Gerry Studds (D-MA) introduced a bill *The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992*. This was a bill designed to reauthorize and strengthen the current Endangered Species Act.

In the first issue of 1993, Paul DeBenedictis reported on the very successful Federation meeting at Oneonta. Roger Tory Peterson had been the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and he had graciously signed many of his books for attendees.

Ruth Knight announced a party to celebrate the year of checking bird populations in the five state parks. It also helped her to thank everyone who had worked on the project.

The Syracuse Christmas count had warm weather with only patchy snow. But strong south winds kept the count low. 69 species were located, compared to last year's high of 83.

In an editorial, Phil Clarke told of a friend birding in the Northwest rainforest who was told by relatives not to brandish his binoculars in logging country lest he be stereotyped an eco-nut by a dangerously radical anti-environmental faction. Phil also told of the OAS meeting where Eric Sie spoke of the concerns and strategies of Adirondack advocates struggling to prevent over exploitation of the park. In the audience was a group of north country neighbors who were eager to rebut the legitimacy of his opinions. Phil mentioned that OAS needed a solid, intelligent, and well-reasoned base so that we can join with our neighbors in achieving the most practical compromises for all creatures in an ever-changing world.



On the January 16-23, 1993 waterfowl count, the 25 species found was about average, but total numbers dropped by about 10,000 probably due to more normal weather conditions. A male Harlequin Duck was found—only the second record for the species on the count. There were three times as many Double-crested Cormorants as last year, proving that they can winter in the north.

At the Audubon banquet on June 9, 1993, Ernest Williams, Professor of Biology at Hamilton College, presented one of his favorite subjects, butterflies and moths. In 1991, Ernest Williams had written a book *The Butterfly Book* in the Stokes Nature Guide series.

Sue and John Adair were scheduled to start the fall programs with *What I Did on my Summer Vacation*. They planned to show slides of their summer trip to Alaska "where all the days are long, all the snow is good looking (from a distance), and all the birds are above average."

Two issues could affect the Adirondack Park. A little known federal program to purchase open space for future generations had been authorized to spend \$900 million per year for many years. Less than one third of this amount had been used for several years. Writing federal representatives might help New York get some needed money to purchase Adirondack land. Also the Adirondack Agency needed more money as their work load had increased but funds had not.

OAS and NYS Department of Parks were sponsoring a teach-in for birders at Selkirk Shores State Park on Saturday, June 12th. There would be discussions and demonstrations of optics, field guides and bird walks.

Dorothy Crumb was looking through some old records. She found a list of warblers that were seen in Pompey from August 16 through October 8, 1973. There were 26 species represented with a total of 2690 individuals. Highest counts were 587 Black-throated Green, 387 Yellow-rumped then Magnolia, Cape May and Bay-breasted in the 200s. *When this was published in The Kestrel in 1993, I remember that I remarked to someone that now I was lucky to see one Cape May Warbler a year. On September 13, 1993, I counted 43.*

The OAS Education Scholarship in 1993 was awarded to Paula Drake, a teacher at McKinley Brighton School in Syracuse. This year the scholarship was sponsored by Bristol Meyer-Squibb.

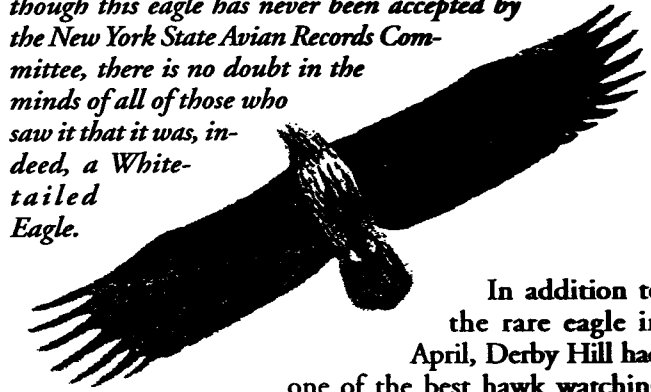
Pete Dunne was to be banquet speaker at the annual Federation of NYS Bird Clubs in Watertown, September 10-

12, 1993. Pete Dunne, a well-known birder, author, and lecturer was currently associated with Cape May Bird Observatory.

In the September-October 1993 issue, the new President, Sue Adair, reminded members that the mission of Onondaga Audubon Society was to engender in the people of the Central New York community a greater appreciation of wildlife, land, water, and other natural resources. Although an active birder, Sue asked members to help to make OAS appeal to a broader spectrum of the community and not concentrate on birding. Mary Alice Keoneke, retiring President, told of several OAS accomplishments during her term. She thanked the many active members who had helped on these accomplishments and hoped they would continue their service with Sue Adair.

Kay McIntyre, after a long period of serving as Chair of the Conservation Committee, retired to take on other duties. This left an important gap on the board and Mary Alice Koeneke agreed to fill in, at least temporarily.

The Rare Bird Alert mentioned birds outside of Region 5. One that brought birders from all over and even outside the state was a White-winged Tern at Perch River. But the bird of the year, decade and century was a White-tailed Eagle that flew over Derby Hill on April 24, 1993. *Although this eagle has never been accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee, there is no doubt in the minds of all of those who saw it that it was, indeed, a White-tailed Eagle.*



In addition to the rare eagle in April, Derby Hill had one of the best hawk watching months on record. A Black Vulture stayed around two days in a row. There was a one day record of Red-shouldered Hawks and new highs for Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. 1993 was to be Gerry Smith's last year as hawk counter as he became a full time Steward for The Nature Conservancy. Tom Shuman finished his term as Derby Hill chairman. Further funding for the Fritz Scheider trail allowed the completion of a foot bridge over the creek and the beginning of a boardwalk across the wet meadow. Tom was lead man on the deck project and planned to finish the job that summer. Many people showed up with hammers to help secure the hundreds of treads that completed the walk. As a small token of appreciation, Tom received the OAS Service Award at the June Banquet.

Fourteen teams participated in the 1993 birdathon and raised a total of just over \$2,500.

Four programs were listed on the first page of the November-December 1993 issue: November, John Proud and Robert Gotie telling of beaver problems; December, Guy Baldassarre *Prairie Pothole Wetlands*; January 1994, Anne Baker, *The Evolution of Zoos*; and February *Montezuma's Wildlife* by Larry Van Druff.

Three representatives had introduced a bill in the spring to increase funding for endangered species protection that would protect all species in an ecosystem. Another bill that opposed these ideas asked for captive breeding instead of habitat protection.

New York State DEC had scrapped the moose reintroduction plan due to lack of public support. Moose would be allowed to increase naturally and unwanted moose would be relocated.

The traditional Christmas count-down party would be held at the home of Karen and Mel Slotnick in Fayetteville. Bob and Ellie Long would be out of town at a wedding.

The American Birding Association held its regional conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario December 2-6, 1993. Up to eighteen species of gulls could be seen at this location and it was a great way to study all plumages. There would be speakers on gull identification, shorebird migration, owl behavior and more.

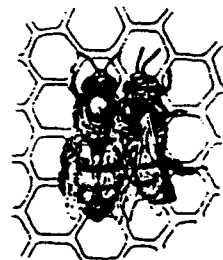
The OAS Board of Directors was currently in the process of reviewing the constitution and by-laws of the organization. They were last updated in 1986.

In March of 1994, popular TV weatherman Dave Eichorn was to discuss weather as it related to migrating birds. *Dave's wife decided to have a baby that night and his talk was postponed until January, 1995.* Robert Chambers talked about the *Ecology and Status of the Spruce Grouse* in April.

Conservation committee chair Mary Dreiling wrote an article in the January-February issue about a new organization called Partners in Flight. It was made up of a large number of agencies and universities all concerned with neotropical migratory birds. Sixty-five percent of neotropical migrating birds that nest in the Great Lakes were declining in numbers. Partners in Flight wanted to recognize problems with habitat destruction and save species and habitat before they become threatened or endangered. An address was given to secure a newsletter that further described this conservation organization.

A new masthead was created for *The Kestrel* for the March-April 1994 issue. Sue Adair drew a new flying American Kestrel. The original logo drawn by H. Wayne Trimm and first used in 1961 is still perched on the address page.

The OAS banquet was scheduled for June 8, 1994. Dr. Roger Morse of Cornell was to speak on the Honey Bee.



Jeanne Ryan wrote of the success of the December 18, 1993 Christmas Count. Participants located 80 species of birds—not far from the record 83 found in 1991. Bird of the Day honors went to a find of John Hanyak's, a Blue-winged Teal. Marge Rusk also praised the Oswego count's 59 species—an improvement over the 47 found in 1992.

The 1993 Federation meeting was held in Watertown where Pete Dunne's Saturday night talk of a rare flycatcher almost rediscovered kept everyone spellbound. At the Council of Delegates meeting there was much discussion about a sequel to John Bull's *Birds of New York State* which was already 20 years old. *The sequel, Bull's Birds of New York State, was completed in 1998 thanks to great effort by Emanuel Levine who collected and edited all of the necessary material with the help of Berna and Stanley Lincoln. Species accounts were written by many birders around New York State.*

Once again the meeting place for OAS had to be changed. Starting in September, 1994, OAS would meet in the DeWitt Community Church on Erie Boulevard East. The zoo was raising the cost of renting the space. *The organization still meets in DeWitt in 2001.*

The waterfowl count in January 1994 was low because of ice in most of the lakes and mist obscuring visibility at Onondaga Lake. Twenty-one people participated to find twenty species and just short of 7,000 individuals.

Tony Shrimpton told of his trip to Greyling, Michigan to see and hear the very localized Kirtland's Warbler. Seeing it was a near miss until they were ready to leave and a burst of song alerted them to a very visible male.

Jim Throckmorton wrote a brief article about Dorothy Crumb's spring arrival records of various migrant species. These records were kept in her twenty-four years of birding in Central New York. Tree Swallow was the early arrival on the list with average date of 27 March and the list continued through 57 species ending on 9 June with Acadian Flycatcher.

A new hawk watcher, Brian Sullivan, arrived in Central New York on February 13th. He had to wade through snowdrifts up the hill to the Derby Hill cottage. He did see a small number of hawks the next few days which included the prize of a dark phase Gyrfalcon off the bluff. The flight for February totaled over 100 birds.

The September meeting at our new location had also located a new speaker. Dr. Ken Rosenberg from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology would tell of *Birding Louisiana, the Underrated State*.

Mary Alice Koeneke, Conservation Chair, wrote of the Great Northern Forest which comprised twenty-six million acres stretching from the Tug Hill to the Maine woods. The region provided breeding habitat for more than 150 species of birds. Fifty percent of the species declined in population size from 1981-91. One of the major factors contributing to the decline was habitat loss/fragmentation on wintering and nesting grounds. A Northern Forest Lands Council had been formed and would make recommendations to congress regarding the Great Northern Forest.

Brian Sullivan recorded several high counts for individual raptor species at Derby Hill in the spring. He also saw some rarities such as Sandhill Crane and two rare warblers, Yellow-throated and Swainson's.

The speaker for the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs meeting at Williams Lake Resort in Rosendale New York in the fall was announced. Julio de laTorre would create the theme for the meeting and concentrate on owls. He would also lead an early morning field trip in hopes of hearing an owl or two.

Mushrooms would be the topic for the October 12, 1994 meeting, presented by Dr. Timothy J. Barone from SUNY-Cortland. In November, Ferne Merrill would show slides and tell of her trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Four important acts were due to be renewed in Congress: The Endangered Species Act, Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water Acts, and Superfund. Mary Alice Koeneke, Conservation Chair, recommended members write their representatives and ask for reauthorization and strengthening.

In her President's Report for 1993-1994, Sue Adair mentioned the passing of *American Birds Magazine* due to lack of funds. This brought to her mind the possible passing of the Wood Thrush due to cowbird predation. One study in Illinois found that 90% of the Wood Thrush nests had cowbird eggs. Sue then wondered what she herself and the society had done in the conservation field. She listed many accomplishments and hoped the efforts could be continued. The article was accompanied by this quotation from William Beebe: "When the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again."

In the September-October 1994 Annual Report, Mary Alice Koeneke, Conservation Chair, shared our gains and losses for the year in both state and national issues. The Great Northern Forest issue had gained momentum and had many loyal followers. The long battle of James Bay was won when New York dropped its option for 800 megahertz of electricity, but New York City then picked up the option and the fight was lost.

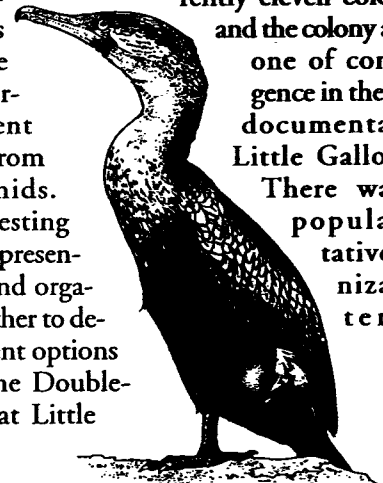
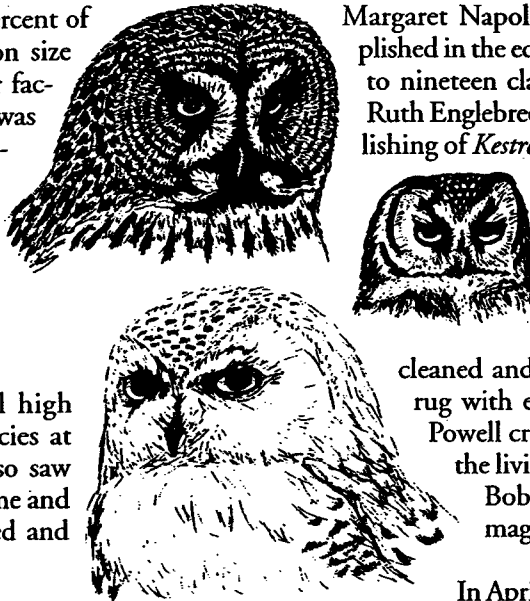
Margaret Napoleon told of the many things accomplished in the education field. *Audubon Adventures* went to nineteen classrooms; Mary Hartigan received the Ruth Englebrecht scholarship to Audubon camp; publishing of *Kestrel for Kids*, and many other activities for children.

At Derby Hill more than fifteen members helped to complete the deck over the wet meadow on the Fritz Scheider trail. Also a group cleaned and painted the cottage and replaced the rug with easier to clean vinyl covering. Georgia Powell created a beautiful quilt wall hanging for the living room with pictures of several hawks. Bob Long continued with the binding of magazines for the Derby Hill collection.

In April 1994, a new committee was organized to manage Noyes Sanctuary. Bob Long was chairperson. Sue and John Adair, Bob Asanoma, Ruth Knight, Wayne Powell, and Mary Alice Koeneke hoped to continue the trail maintenance, bridge repair, posting new signs, and complete a new trail from the Noyes headstone near the lake to the previously cleared field.

The last program for the year, on December 14, 1994, would be a discussion of migrant neotropical songbirds by Kris Agard of The Nature Conservancy.

Mary Alice Koeneke reported that Double-crested Cormorants had been on the increase and a cormorant information workshop was held in Watertown on September 7, 1994. There were currently eleven colonies in the Great Lakes and the colony at Little Galloo was the largest because of a resurgence in their population and recent public concern requesting management. Representatives of interested groups and organizations would work together to determine which management options should be used on the Double-crested Cormorants at Little Galloo.



Too many developers were avoiding meeting permit requirements on filling in wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NYSDEC both regulate the filling or draining of wetlands. Members were asked to contact these agencies if they saw any wetland being filled.

Dorothy Crumb presented a program on February 8, 1995 *Birding the Canadian Rockies*. She showed slides of her trip with Wings Birding Tour into the Province of Alberta and the Canadian Rockies. Peter Tango on March 8th spoke of Woodcocks wintering on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Currently most of the state and federal funding for wildlife programs comes from hunting and fishing licenses. As a consequence, the emphasis of their projects is on game species. Ways are being considered to raise money that can be used for nongame species. One possibility is an excise tax on outdoor equipment such as backpacks, cameras, binoculars, etc.

A strong wind kept the December 17, 1995 Syracuse Christmas count at a low total of 65 species. The following day, Oswego did better than average with 61. Skaneateles had 67 species, two below the count average but very high numbers of individuals. The next day Montezuma broke its record with 72 species.

The Nature Conservancy purchased two parcels of land at Sandy Pond, Oswego County. This purchase protects rare Great Lake dunes, including habitat for migrant shorebirds and songbirds. The Western New York chapter needed help to repay the loan from the National organization for the purchase.

The American Chestnut Foundation is fighting to save the species. In April 1995, Woody Clark represented the organization at the OAS meeting. Jim Dale from Cornell spent three summers on the tundra of the Northwest Territories. He talked on May 10th of the two main species that he studied; Red Phalaropes and Lapland Longspurs and some of the animals and scenery of the area.

The Conservation Chairman announced that April 22, 1995 was the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day, a day that celebrated our environment. At this anniversary, Congress was trying to undermine many of the environmental protection laws. The problems were listed and members were urged to write their congressmen asking them to insure the preservation of environmental quality.

The National Audubon Spring Migration Count was held May 13, 1995. Local birders would scour Oswego, Cayuga, and Seneca Counties for species to be sent to a national computer and used to monitor population

of migrating birds. This would be followed on May 20th by Birdathon 1995 for fun and fundraising for OAS.

The summer 1995 issue mentioned the OAS annual banquet that was to be held June 14th. Tim Gallagher, Editor-in-Chief of Cornell's *Living Bird* magazine, showed some of his favorite bird photographs and discussed how he took them.

The first program of the fall was presented by Dr. Monica LeClerc from Jefferson Community College. She had spent three years in the high desert sagebrush of Utah. She studied food habits and the competitive interactions among birds of prey.

Mary Alice Koeneke, Conservation Chair, asked everyone to sign and mail to her the enclosed copy of an environmental bill of rights. Onondaga and National Audubon were joining other organizations in hopes of presenting at least one million of these pledges to Congress that every American has the right to a safe and healthy environment.

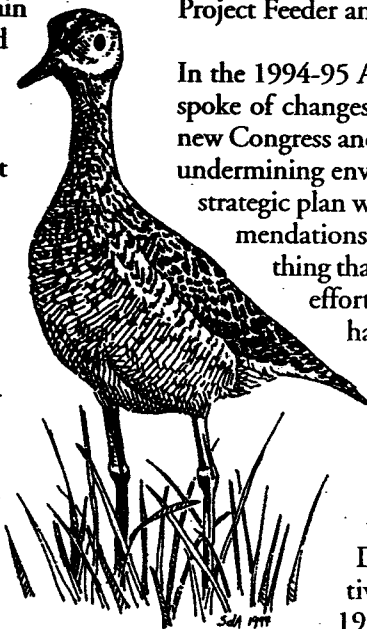
Summer 1995 was the first mention of birdwatching moving into the electronic age. The editor gave details for subscribing to Birdchat on the internet to share birding information among North American birders.

At the spring meeting of the Audubon Council of New York State, Gerry Barnhart from NYSDEC talked of a 5% Federal tax on wildlife related products. This would generate \$17.5 million a year of dedicated funds to spend on non-game conservation, education, and recreation.

Sea Otters and Pigeons were the focus for the October and November 1995 meetings of Onondaga Audubon. Alan Baker from the Burnet Park Zoo had served as a member of the Sea Otter Project based in Morro Bay, California. Margaret Baker from the Cornell Lab spoke of Cornell's Project Feeder and Pigeon Watch.

In the 1994-95 Annual Report, our President, Sue Adair, spoke of changes in government policy and felt that the new Congress and the new New York Governor were both undermining environmental causes. A National Audubon strategic plan went along with many of the OAS recommendations for changes. OAS felt more than anything that National Audubon needed to focus their efforts and stop trying to do everything. OAS had suggested a limited set of priorities directly linking birds, other wildlife and their habitats to people.

Derby Hill's summer of 1994 began with a financial crisis as the payment for the hawk count was in doubt. Thanks to Don Barnes and the staff of Representative James Walsh, the funds were paid for 1994 and 1995. Work projects included



crushed stone for the main lookout, several repairs to the house, and considerable trimming around the cottage and at the south lookout. Brian Sullivan continued the count and brought Jerry Liguori as an intern to assist with the count and help visitors.

A group of Boy Scouts from Liverpool, led by Eagle Scout Brooks Moatz, working at Noyes Sanctuary erected new signs along the roads and repaired the bridges. Noyes and OAS Board members trimmed branches, cut trees, and mowed the field. On Earth Day, in addition to bird and wild flower walks, there was shoreline cleanup. Five 30-gallon cans of refuse were removed. One interesting bit of debris turned up. It was a small electrical device with cathode tubes. Bob Asanoma did some research on this device and found out that it was a remote control for small flying drones that were used by the Army for target practice in the 1950s.

The May 20, 1995 Birdathon found 186 species of birds, the highest number ever recorded. Fourteen teams participated, with the winning team finding 147 species. Almost \$4,000 was raised which enabled OAS to contribute \$1,400 to The Nature Conservancy for their Sandy Pond project.

Bill Purcell reported on the success of the Rare Bird Alert tape. Among other things, he reported a Northern Lapwing on Long Island. Many birders had hoped to see this European visitor in the United States, so flocks of birders journeyed to Long Island with binoculars and telescopes. Many were successful. Other big news in the bird world was the presence of a pair of Peregrines in Syracuse. Although they did not nest, there was great hope that they would in the future. As a public education project, OAS held city field trips showing the peregrines to passers-by through telescopes. The library also set up a display of material describing falcons and other birds of prey.

The last OAS program in 1995 was *Life Cycles of Six-legged Beasts*. Dr. Steven Teale of SUNY-ESF discussed the life cycles of insects and their importance to us. The new year, 1996, started with Dr. William Shields, also of SUNY-ESF, relating his study of Barn Swallows.

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in Southeast Arizona was named the first Globally Important Bird Area in the United States by the American Bird Conservancy.

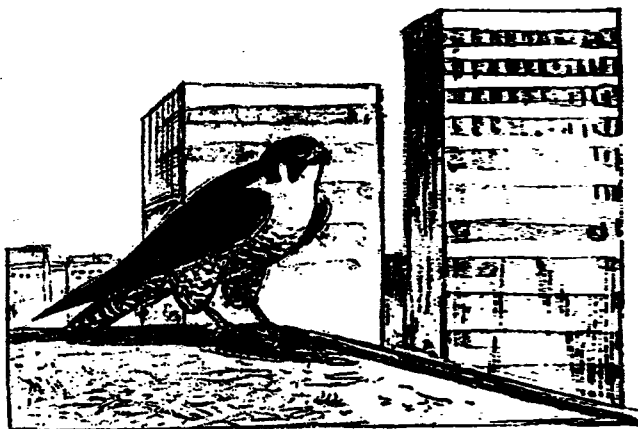
A windstorm in July downed an estimated 50,000 trees in the Cranberry Lake/Five Ponds Wilderness area of the Adirondacks. Input was being requested by DEC as to how to manage these downed trees. There was fear of forest fire, but it would be expensive to remove with few roads in the wilderness area.

Peter Tango wrote of the New York River Otter Project, a nonprofit organization that had been formed to address

the issue of restoring otters to their former range in New York State. There were stable populations in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Some of these otters would be trapped and transferred to suitable habitat. The first release was scheduled for Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in October 1995.

Forest Ranger Gary Lee, who has led hundreds of birders from all over the east on field trips in the Adirondacks, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Birding Association for having provided special assistance in the birding field.

A nesting platform for the Peregrine Falcons was erected on the MONY Towers in downtown Syracuse by DEC. There was a media event with reporters and TV cameras on September 15, 1995. Dorothy Crumb, Jeanne Ryan, and Andy Leahy represented OAS and shared the wonder of the incredible view from the top of the towers. *Unfortunately the birds never used the nest box and it was eventually removed when roof repairs were made.*

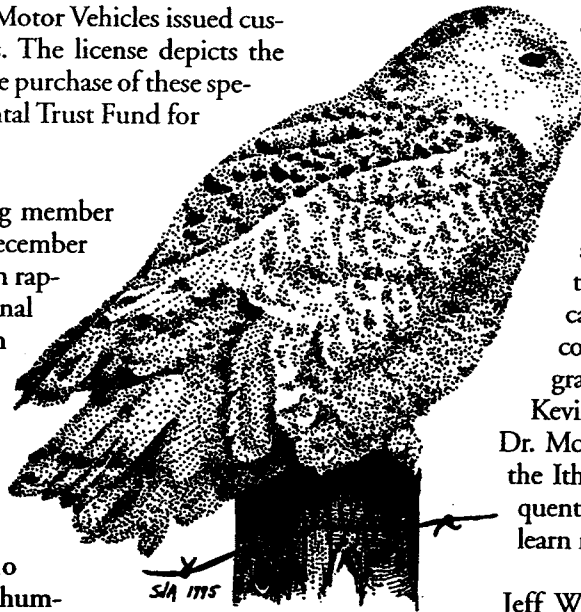


In the February-March *Kestrel*, the program scheduled for the February meeting was Bob Long telling of the success and failure of some of the flowering trees of Syracuse. On March 13th, Sue and John Adair would show slides taken on their trip to Tierra Del Fuego, the Drake Passage, the South Shetland Island, and the Antarctic Peninsula. *John made a dramatic entrance into the room wearing a Wandering Albatross that Sue had made of styrofoam emphasizing its amazing ten foot wingspan.*

The Conservation Chair started the New Year with a list of six "green" resolutions that could improve the quality of our lives. These included recycling, monitoring water consumption, buying and using energy saving appliances, planting more greenery and reducing the amount of lawn, and writing elected officials on environmental issues. National Audubon also had six goals: to protect birds, endangered wildlife, Everglades and wetlands, forests and wildlands, strengthen grassroot activism, and educating the public.

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles issued custom conservation license plates. The license depicts the Eastern Bluebird. Funds from the purchase of these special plates go to the Environmental Trust Fund for land purchase and protection.

Dr. Walter Spofford, a founding member of OAS, died in Arizona on December 3, 1995. "Spof" was an expert on raptors and was consulted by National organizations about Golden Eagles. He originally came to Syracuse to teach Neuro-Anatomy at the Upstate Medical Center. He and his wife Sally retired to Portal, Arizona where their yard became the focus of visiting birders who wished to see many species of hummingbirds.



Betty Chamberlaine, wife of Lee Chamberlaine, passed away in August. Betty and Lee had been married for 35 years and were regulars at Derby Hill in the spring.

Save the County Land Trust turned 25 in 1996. They have had a spring walk each year to raise money to purchase land for preservation. Thousands of children have participated and learned stewardship on the walks. Over 1,400 acres in Onondaga County have been preserved.

Kim Stahler brought wild birds to the April 10 1996 meeting. Due to the expected crowd, the meeting was held in the church gym. Kim is a wildlife rehabilitator. She thrilled the many children in the audience, and adults too, by allowing some of the birds to fly around the room. In May, Dr. Peter Ducey of SUNY Cortland presented a program on reptiles and amphibians and his current project on Onondaga Lake.

A bill had been written which would permit water and jet skiing, ATVs, and ORVs, as well as cattle grazing and pesticide use in over 500 National Wildlife Refuges. OAS members should write to oppose this bill. On the state level, the Environmental Protection Fund was under attack and a truck bypass was proposed to be built in Saratoga Park.

A new book, *City Cemeteries to Boreal Bogs; Where to go Birding in Central New York*, was at the printers. The book was compiled by Dorothy Crumb and James Throckmorton with 49 original drawings by Sue Adair. Many local birders, familiar with favorite birding locations had contributed to the writing. Money from the Sporberg fund was borrowed to pay the printing cost. *Due to the great demand for the book, this loan was paid back almost immediately and the printing was sold out in the first two years. Five years later OAS is updating many of the chap-*

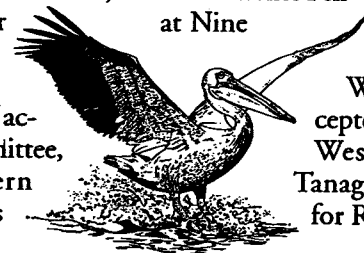
ters and adding a few newer locations in hopes of printing the book again.

At the Annual Banquet held June 12, 1996, David Haskell, a doctoral candidate from Cornell University shared the results of his research into the influence of predation on warbler calls, nests and colorization. The Uncommon Crow was the subject of a program given on September 11th by Dr. Kevin McGowan of Cornell University. Dr. McGowan has been marking crows in the Ithaca area for eight years and subsequently has been able to follow them to learn much about their lifestyles.

Jeff Wells had been hired by National Audubon as Project Coordinator for New York Important Bird Areas. Nominations for an area to be considered were being solicited.

U.S. representative Sherwood Bohler from Oneida received the 1996 William B. Hoyt Environmental Award from the Audubon Council of New York State. This award is given annually to a legislator who has shown a commitment to the environment and conservation.

Seven rare species of birds created springtime excitement in Region 5. The season started with a Swainson's Hawk at Derby on April 19th. This was followed by Great Gray Owl near Brewerton, Western Grebe at Beaver Lake, Eared Grebe at Toad Harbor, American White Pelicans, Western Tanager at Nine Mile Point, and Yellow-throated Warbler near Camillus. If accepted by the Records Committee, Western Grebe and Western Tanager would be new species for Region 5.



National Audubon planned to establish a New York State field office in Albany. Dave Miller was named Executive Director effective July 1 1996. The Audubon Council of New York State was to serve as the Board of Directors for the office. Committees would be formed for education, forests, wetlands, wildlife and finance.

President Bob Asanoma and Mary Alice Koenke attended the Audubon Council of New York State meeting in April held in Albany. They reported that Frank Gill had been hired as head of science for National Audubon. He had been a scientist with the Philadelphia Academy of Science and renowned for his knowledge of birds. The council was updating *Audubon Adventures* with a new look and new in

material and was hoping to create a cooperative program with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups.

OAS announced the start of a website created and run by Andy Leahy. Andy hoped to show the latest field trips, programs, and other OAS information.

The October program would feature Richard Marx who has worked on both Peregrine Falcon and River Otter re-introductions. One of the Peregrines living on the Syracuse buildings was Amelia, hatched in Rochester while Rick was there. In November, Dr. Chris Norment of SUNY-Brockport presented a program on the status of grassland bird populations of Western New York.

Governor Pataki proposed a \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. Included in this would be \$75 million for Onondaga Lake cleanup.

This sad announcement appeared in the September-October 1996 *Kestrel*: "Roger Tory Peterson, the ornithologist whose *Field Guide to the Birds* made the sport of birding possible, died on Sunday, July 28, 1996 at his home in Old Lyme, Connecticut at the age of 87. His contributions to art, ornithology, and science in general were extensive and are well known. His influence will be missed."

Bob Asanoma reported with great pleasure his first year as President of Onondaga Audubon Society. He remarked on the expanded Birdathon and how many new teams and faces had joined. He spoke of lower membership dues for seniors and students and a special \$10 offer being promoted by OAS to attract new members. Bob also spoke of the success of *City Cemeteries to Boreal Bogs* and expected the book to generate new interest in the environment of Central New York.

Work details at Noyes Sanctuary cleared the brush on the road side of the parking lot so it would be easier for the sheriff patrols to spot late night parties. Poison ivy was removed and the large field was mowed. *The Sanctuary reports always seem to target the amount of work that must be done to keep them open. But birds, wildflowers, animals, the gorgeous views of the lake and many walks along the wooded trails of both sanctuaries create a great amount of pleasure for many visitors. The effort must be taken to create this pleasure and volunteers are always welcome.*

OAS had recruited over fifty Armchair Activists since the program had originated in May 1955. These activists had sent an onslaught of letters and phone calls on issues such as the Clean Water Act, the Arctic NWR, government funding of environmental programs, forestry issues, lead affects on waterfowl, acid rain, and many others. Marge Rusk was

our representative to the Dune Coalition with its concerns with dune conservation along Lake Ontario. Carl Braun agreed to work as Conservation Chair starting July 1, 1996 when Mary Alice Koeneke stepped down.

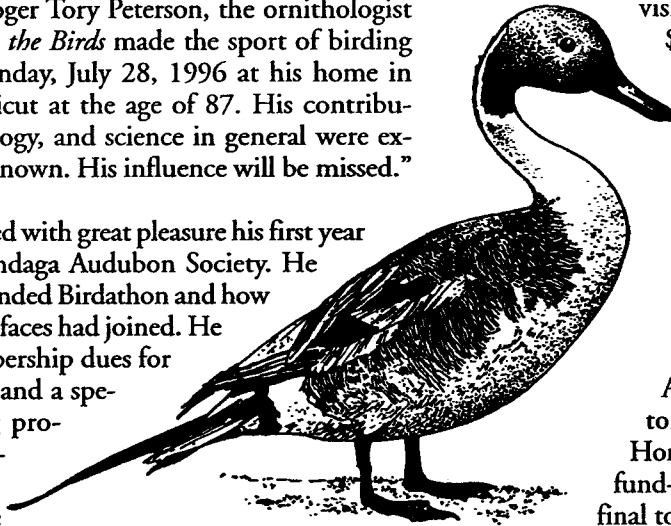
The Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship to attend a week long ecology workshop in Connecticut was granted to Nan Terry, a seventh and eighth grade science teacher from LaFayette.

At Derby Hill a flash flood in January washed aside the new bridge across the stream on the trail. The workers decided to cooperate with Mother Nature and build a temporary bridge for seasonal use. The hawk count, this year performed by Zach Smith from California, was the lowest since 1983 because of cool weather and lack of south winds. Judy Thurber and Ellie Long had beverages and snacks and hospitality to brighten many a dull day for visitors. Lee Chamberlaine joined in with special teaching sessions and became chief hot dog cook in April. New visitors were given more attention and

\$500 was generated in sales, including nearly all of the Derby Hill T-shirts.

Erosion of the bluff continued to be a major problem and consultants were sought in an effort to try to get it stabilized.

Three species were seen for the first time ever on the 1996 Birdathon: American White Pelican, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Lapland Longspur. Also for the first time in Birdathon history, Ring-necked Pheasant and Great Horned Owl were missed by all teams. The fund-raising goal this year was \$4,000. The final total was \$4,400.



John Adair gave WWW addresses for many conservation organizations. He also urged everyone to sign up as an Armchair Activist. Twelve observers on 82 trips and 120 party hours worked on a year's survey of the Nine Mile Creek counting species and numbers of birds. The survey was enjoyable, especially during migration, and 118 species were found. The only rarity was Sue Adair's May 10, 1996 discovery of a Yellow-throated Warbler.

Dr. Jeff Wells of National Audubon discussed the new Important Bird Area program on December 11, 1996. Jean Soprano and Cyndi Sears, Wildlife Rehabilitators, discussed their work with orphaned and injured birds in January 1997.

The November 1996-January 1997 *Kestrel* had these conservation items. The Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act vote was to come on November 5th. OAS members were urged to vote yes on this important bond act. Montezuma NWR was dedicated as New York State's first IBA on October 5,

1996. *Audubon Advocate*, a quarterly publication would be published by National Audubon's New York State Field Office.

Fifty new members signed up because of OAS's \$10 membership sale. OAS received a national award as the top chapter in the category of most species seen for the fewest number of miles driven in the 1996 Birdathon. Lee Chamberlaine, Claire Putala, and Gerry Smith spotted 94 species at the Derby Hill Bird Observatory without driving a single mile.

Dr. Rainier Brocke of SUNY-ESF spoke of the *Coyote in the Adirondacks* at the February 19, 1997 meeting. *The Relationship of Soil Invertebrates and Birds* was the subject of Dr. Daniel Dindel's presentation on March 12th.

Carl Braun spoke of the history of National Audubon formed a century ago when birds were slaughtered to provide feathers for ladies' hats. A group of concerned citizens founded the society and laid the groundwork for later generations to enjoy watching birds in their natural surroundings. National Audubon is now planning for the next 25 years and has completed a long-term plan of action. To accomplish these goals, Audubon proposes to engender a culture of conservation. As an important part of this National Audubon hopes to develop an education program that builds an awareness of conservation.

The four Syracuse Christmas Counts were described. Jeanne Ryan-Syracuse had 76 species, three of which were new to the count: Fish Crow, American Pipit, and Baltimore Oriole. The House Finch count of 316 was less than a third of last year's total. Steve Kahl-Skaneateles tallied 31,000 individuals, two-thirds of which were American Crows or European Starlings. Snowy Owl was found for the first time in the count's 24 years history. Sue Adair-Oswego had low clouds and low counts. Total species recorded of 52 was the lowest since 1992. Bill Purcell-Montezuma reported 68 species—the 4th highest since the count began in 1959. Glaucous Gull was new for the count.

Kim Stahler returned on April 9, 1997 with her wild birds, including Barf, the Turkey Vulture. Also attending was Ole Tome, the oldest son of the chief of a Masai tribal village in Kenya. He spoke of his people's life and culture. The May program was also special with Dr. Glenn Johnson speaking of the *Herpetology of New York*. The meeting was held at Illick Hall so that in addition to his informative talk, Glenn could show us many live specimens of various

species of herps. Members could also browse the Roosevelt Wildlife Collection.

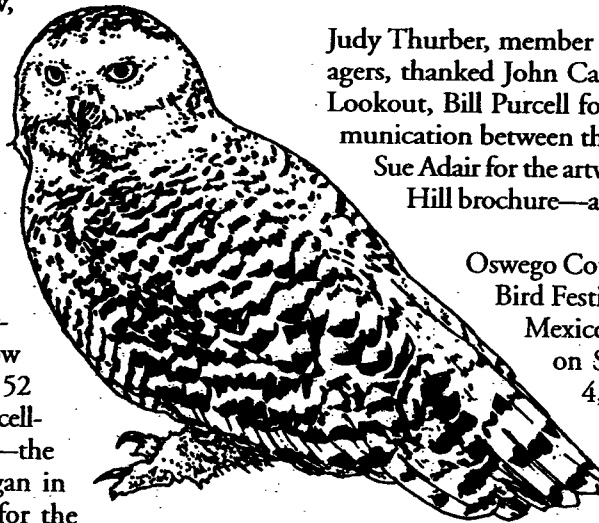
An International Conservation note was mentioned. Thousands of Swainson's Hawks had died due to ingestion of the pesticide monocrotophos. Farmers in the Argentinean pampas used this pesticide to kill grasshoppers, which Swainson's Hawks feed upon. Ciba-Geigy, the principal manufacturer of MCP, agreed to withdraw it from the market and its use was prohibited on alfalfa. Ciba also convinced other manufacturers to do the same. Editor Sue Adair made this comment, "Wow! That's pretty impressive!"

The Teaming with Wildlife funding initiative might be introduced as legislation very soon. This would be a 2.5% to 5% excise tax on a wide range of outdoor products. The funds estimated to be \$350 million annually would be distributed to states for conservation, recreation and education projects.

Announcement was made of the Federation Annual Meeting to be held in Lake Placid September 12-14. Dr. David Bird from the Avian Science and Conservation Center of McGill University was to speak on *Technology and Birds*.

There was a new hawk counter at Derby Hill, Jim Tietz, from California who had worked with last year's hawk watcher at Vera Cruz, Mexico. On Sunday afternoon May 4th, between two and four PM, Derby Hill was officially dedicated as an Important Bird Area by National Audubon.

Judy Thurber, member of the Derby Hill Board of Managers, thanked John Cashier for a new sign at the North Lookout, Bill Purcell for a gift of walkie-talkies for communication between the North and South lookouts, and Sue Adair for the artwork on the cover of the new Derby Hill brochure—a dark morph Rough-legged Hawk.



Oswego County was planning a Lake Ontario Bird Festival. The festival was to be held in Mexico, New York, home of Derby Hill, on Saturday and Sunday May 3 and 4, 1997. The festival was held at Mexico Point State Park on Mexico Point Drive in Texas, New York.

At the annual banquet held June 11, 1997 Dr. John W. Fitzpatrick, Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, discussed the decline of migratory birds. On September 10th, Tom McDonald of Rochester, NY, discussed his objectives, his methods, tools, and equipment when banding Snowy Owls.

Conservation Chair Carl Braun discussed the importance of recycling every item we possibly can. When garbage is burned, the ashes are trucked to places like Seneca Mead-

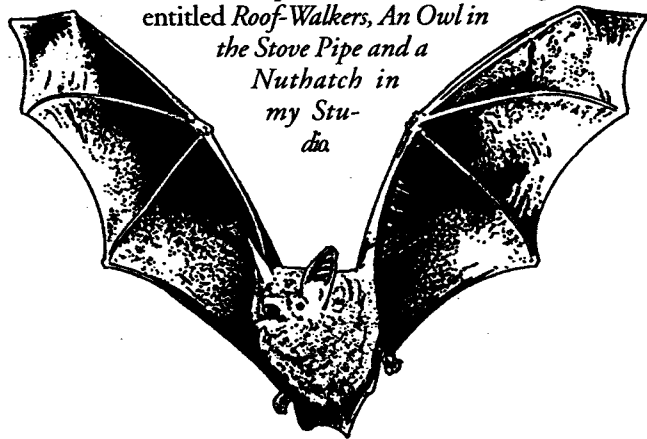
ows. There nearly 900,000 tons per year of garbage and ash are buried. Was this safe for Montezuma NWR which is nearby and are we creating a "can of worms" for someone else to solve in the future?

Kyle Wright, a freshman at Christian Brothers Academy, had been selected as one of four young people in the U.S. to be on the American Birding Association teen team at the World Series of Birding. They traveled to Cape May, New Jersey, on May 10, 1997 to participate in a 24-hour competition to see as many species of birds as possible in the State of New Jersey.

Kate Ninno, a sixth grade student in Syracuse, wrote an excellent article of her experience at Baltimore Woods watching Doug Whitman and his assistant Cleon Williams band birds. She wrote of the methods of capture, the different sized bands used, and information recorded. *Baltimore Woods in Marcellus was the first property purchased by Save The County over 25 years ago and Doug Whitman has banded birds as an educational project there for many years.*

The September-October 1997 issue contained the OAS Annual Report for 1996-97. Martha Zettel from the University of Rochester gave a slide presentation on October 8, 1997 on the basic biology and ecology of bats. She brought with her live Jamaican Fruit Bats and Big Brown Bats. This was followed on November 12th by Karen L. Allaben-Confer, Ithaca's premier artist with a delightful talk

entitled *Roof-Walkers, An Owl in the Stove Pipe and a Nuthatch in my Studio*



Carl Braun continued his discussion of recycling and garbage disposal because he had received a letter challenging what he had written. He consulted the Statistical Abstract of the United States. Among other alarming statistics, he found this figure: from 1960-1994, waste material disposal grew from 87.8 million tons per year to 209.1 million tons per year. This was an increase from 2.7 pounds to 4.4 pounds per person per day!

Two of the hardest workers in OAS were moving to Albany. John Adair had taken a job there in July 1997. This was the last issue of *The Kestrel* that they edited. Barbara

Reuter would take over the job with the November 1997-January 1998 issue.

Bob Asanoma, in the President's report, told of the many accomplishments for the society for 1996-1997. It included a new membership high, nearly selling out of our book *City Cemeteries to Boreal Bogs*, Birdathon had record participants and funds, the IBA for Derby Hill, and many other things.

New signs were created for Noyes Sanctuary with the Golden-winged Warbler as the logo. Derby Hill developed a Mission Statement, "To contribute to the preservation of the Raptor Species which migrate through Northeast America."

The F.G. Scheider trail was completed and there was a major renovation of the porch at the cottage. A new brochure made its debut in March and John Cashier created a new cedar sign to replace the nineteen year old pressure treated sign at the main lookout.

Twenty-four classrooms in eleven schools received subscriptions to *Audubon Advocate* from National Audubon due to funds raised during the Birdathon. The Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship to attend a week long field ecology workshop in Connecticut was given to Dorothy Clark, a tenth grade biology teacher at Liverpool High School.

The Birdathon, held on a cold, wet day on May 17, 1997 shattered previous participant records with 35 teams and 103 birders. The total tally of species was 189—the second highest in 39 years. Snowy Egret and Sedge Wren were the unusual species for the day. Another fund-raising record was set of \$5,267.

Larry Linder had answered the OAS telephone at his Liverpool store, The Bird Feeding Station, for eight years. Larry closed his store in September 1997. The telephone was now being answered by Michelle and David McDonald at Wild Birds Unlimited in Fayetteville. *The number, 637-0318, is still the same in March 2001.*

Carl Braun gave details on a new trail that the DEC had developed at the Camillus Forest Unique Area. This is an area near Camillus on New York State property. In the spring of 1997, news broke that a developer wanted to buy the property but Governor Patacki stopped the sale and management was turned over to DEC. There is a unique stand of very large sugar maples on the land. After public hearings it was decided that the Unique Area and its assets belong to the public for hiking and birdwatching. There are also many wildflowers to enjoy.

The new *Kestrel* editor, Barb Reuter, said she was looking forward with enthusiasm to her new job. She remarked that we would all miss Sue and John and wished them well in their new adventures in Albany.

Derby Hill made the first payment in August to purchase two more parcels of land totaling about nine acres. These parcels extend from the west edge of the north lookout to Sage Creek Road from the first and third fields. Derby Hill had received two anonymous gifts of over \$15,000 that helped purchase the new property, but more was needed. There were also other donations in memory of Ellie Long's mother and for the F.G. Scheider trail. Evergreen Nursery donated a beautiful Washington Hawthorn in memory of Phil Clarke. Phil died in August 1997 at the much too young age of 45. Always smiling, always willing to help, he was known as a poet, naturalist, and an expert horticulturist. He had been editor of *The Kestrel* and did the plantings at the F.G. Scheider trailhead. Dick Askeland wrote a descriptive poem about Phil that ended with "His earthly presence is no more—so we remember with gratitude shared experiences amidst woods, stream and shore."

Ferdinand (Ferd) LaFrance died in September 1997. He was an excellent field observer who compensated for poor hearing with remarkable skills of observation. He participated in many birdathons and Christmas Counts. His name will forever be known to birdwatchers from many states because of the Adirondack bog he discovered while hunting. Famous for its many northern species of birds, Ferd's Bog is now one of National Audubon's IBAs. Ferd was also an amateur archeologist who worked on many Native American village sites in Central New York.

Some members of OAS teamed up on September 6 as—what else—The Kestrels to participate in the Montezuma Muckrace. This was a competition much like the Birdathon. The three Ithaca based teams swept the field with the Cayuga Bird Club placing first with 119 species. The Kestrels did poorly with only 90 species for the long day.

The February-March 1998 issue of *The Kestrel* told of Chris Vredenberg, hawk watcher from Franklin

Mountain speaking about the basics of hawk watching. Franklin Mountain hawk watch area is located near Oneonta and provides a panoramic view of the Susquehanna River Valley and surrounding hills of Otsego and Delaware Counties. He had been counting raptors at Franklin Mountain for seven years.

NYSDEC had published a book *Conserving Open Space in New York State*. This was a very large detailed and very thorough book. The plan itself identified just about every important space in our area. Already underway were land

acquisition programs at Green Lakes State Park and the Northern Montezuma Wetlands. Other projects under planning consideration were Clark Reservation, Fair Haven Beach State Park, Beaver Lake and White Lake. There was controversy in Dewitt concerning White Lake. It was about to be sold to a private owner and would no longer remain "forever wild."

A Yellow-billed Loon was found in Oswego Harbor on Sunday, December 21, 1997. Mary Alice Koeneke, Sue Boettger, Bill Gruenbaum, and Gerard Phillips were checking the harbor on the Oswego Christmas count when the bird was discovered. This was the first live record of a Yellow-billed Loon in New York State. Remains of a specimen were picked up on an eastern Long Island beach in early 1930. The loon in Oswego was still present into January which made it possible for people from all over New York State to add it to their list. Other unusual birds were found on that same Christmas count, a Great Cormorant, only the second for Region 5, a Bonaparte's Gull, and a Black-legged Kittiwake.

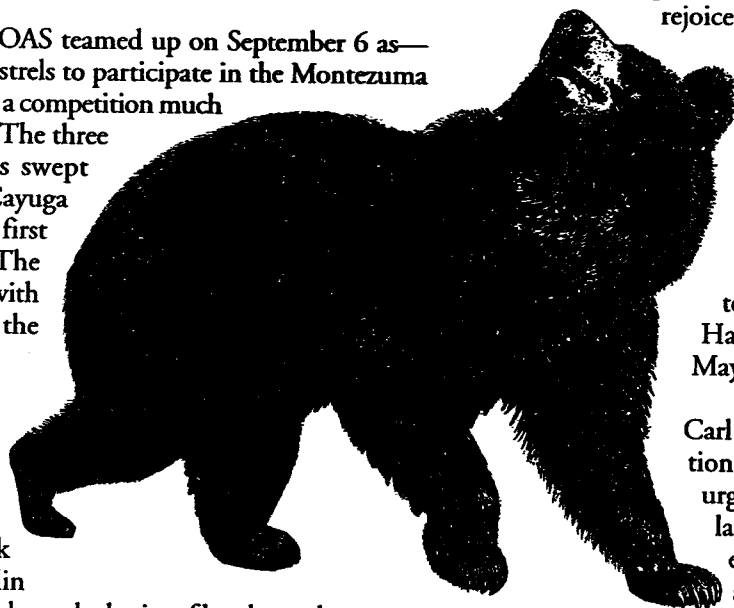
Niels Maumenee from Maryland was hired for the spring 1998 hawk count at Derby Hill. Niels would be on the job from the end of February for three months. A nice letter was received from Phil Clarke's parents. In part, it said, "Thank you, wonderful birders, who were so good to our son! We're very grateful, and want to tell you again how we rejoice as we think of the happiness and pleasure you all gave him. We'll be returning to Derby Hill to watch his tree as it prospers."

D. Andrew Saunders from SUNY-ESF spoke of Adirondack mammals at the April 8th meeting. Stefan Hames from Cornell told of his study of nesting Cooper's Hawks in Tompkins County at the May 13, 1998 meeting.

Carl Braun wrote of the coming election in his conservation column. He urged everyone to remind their legislators of their commitment to the environment. Carl also wrote of a small community in Alaska of 800 people. There were plans to build

a 40 million dollar road leading to it when other means of transportation were available. This coastal town was an important staging area for various species of geese, ducks and Tundra Swans. It was felt that the road would destroy much of this pristine habitat. The measure was coming up for vote and OAS members were urged to write against this measure.

The second annual Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Festival was to be held on May 2 and 3, 1998 at Mexico Point Park,



Oswego County. Shuttle service would be provided back and forth to Derby Hill. Gene Huggins was to be teaching a spring ornithology class at SUNY-ESF starting April 16th and Save the County was planning a Whale Watch from Cape Cod on June 12th to 14th. The OAS banquet would be held on June 10th at the Syracuse Corinthian Club. Gerard and Maryanne Phillips would speak of their trips to Costa Rica.

In the Summer issue of *The Kestrel*, Carl Braun wrote his last article as Conservation Chairman. He had gone into considerable research to read both sides of the question on logging versus wild forests. Some studies stated that more damage could be caused by cutting in forests. Others stated that cutting should be done to help clear dead wood that might create worse fires. There was much discussion on the subject because of a new bill being proposed in the House. Carl also attended a meeting concerning the Camillus Forest Unique Area. Two professors from Forestry hoped to build an arboretum at the site and develop and manage the property for education and to preserve its uniqueness.

Although the day was scorching for spring in Central New York, 37 teams of 107 birders took part on the May 16, 1998 Birdathon. A total of 190 species were seen or heard.

Bill Minor, a founding member of Onondaga Audubon Society, wrote articles for a local newspaper under the pseudonym Senex (which, translated means old person.) Reprinted in the summer *Kestrel* 1998 was his article *Birds Not Heard* where he discussed the possibilities of an "artificial ear." In conclusion, he wrote "Sic transit gloria aves, little by little, song by song. But the songs that I miss are little songs; high, thin, sibilant songs that most people would not even notice. When I can no longer hear a Hermit Thrush sing I will go for the ears."

To add my two cents to Bill's thoughts, I finally broke down last year and invested the money in a pair of these "artificial ears." They were worth every penny. I still can't hear distant songs and some extremely high ones like Cedar Waxwing. But Savannah Sparrows and Blue-winged Warblers not too far from the road are a joy to marvel at again. I don't think you really appreciate the loss of sound until you have a chance to hear it again.

On September 25-27, 1998, The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Rochester. Kenn Kaufman was the featured speaker. The new *Bull's Birds of New York State* would be introduced. *This organization was already three years old when Onondaga Audubon Society broke from its nest egg. It has increased in size and importance in the ornithological and environmental world ever since. Its publication The Kingbird is a very valuable addition to many ornithological libraries.*



Fort Drum is a favorite spot for many upstate New York birders because of the variety and numbers of grassland species of birds. On September 9, 1998, Steven Joule, a fish and wildlife biologist at Fort Drum, showed slides of habitat and fauna and explained how to get permission to bird in the unoccupied training area. In October, Bill Evans from the Cornell Laboratory of Natural Sounds spoke of his research into the night sounds of migrating birds.

During the weekend of July 25-26, over 800 Double-crested Cormorants were shot on Little Galloo Island, Jefferson County. Young cormorants still dependent on their parents for food were left to starve. Even though there had been a decline of numbers of nests in the last year, this decline apparently was not enough for impatient opponents. In the early 1990s, sport fishermen documented cormorants feeding on recently stocked fish. Concerned with potential loss of income, the sport fishermen maintained that the Double-crested Cormorant would be responsible for the destruction of the sport fishery unless the NYSDEC implemented a management program. Food habits have been studied and stocking procedures changed and DEC was preventing the spread of the cormorant colony to other islands. This mass slaughter shows that some people are still not satisfied. It was hoped that the person or person who did this would be caught and punished to the full extent of the law.

At Noyes Sanctuary, many of the 70-year old Red and White Pines had started to fall and were making the trail difficult to maintain. Paul Radway had been asked to come help clear the trail. It was reported to the Derby Hill Board that the farmer on the corner of Sage Creek Road and 104B was planning to sell his farm in separate parcels along Sage Creek Drive. The Board quickly moved to make an offer on a five-acre parcel directly across the road from the South Lookout. This parcel is about 20 feet higher than the South lookout and would allow better vistas for the hawk counters.

The Birdathon in May raised over \$6,000, the largest amount ever. Thanks to Andy Leahy for all his hard work

in organizing this major fund raising event over the past few years. Everyone agrees it is a pleasant way to raise money.

Audubon Adventures was now in eleven schools and thirty classrooms, thanks to the available funds from the Birdathon. The Ruth Englbrecht Scholarship was awarded to Gerri Carmen, a second and third grade teacher at H. W. Smith Elementary School.

Mike Patane in Canastota realized that the ducks he used to hunt were no longer bountiful and he became worried. Mike decided to restore as many acres of wetland as he could and created the Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota, Madison County. The Conservancy is working with many other organizations to restore wetlands and other wildlife habitat in a 2,000 to 3,000 acre area between Canastota and Chittenango north to Oneida Lake. This is a good birding area and many trails have been set up for hiking. A raised area has been created with a great view of a large shallow pond used by many species of ducks and geese in both the spring and fall.

The Owasco Valley Audubon Society announced its second annual Montezuma Muckrace to be held on Saturday, September 12, 1998. Forty birders on fourteen teams competed and raised \$1,500 for Montezuma NWR. Three teams tied for first place with 116 species each.

The last issue of *The Kestrel* for 1998 told of the November 11th program when Dr. Peter A. Rosenbaum of SUNY-Oswego would speak of the Bog and Spotted Turtles. In December, Gloria Mabie, educator and traveler, would tell of her trip to Peru and Ecuador.

Mary Alice Koeneke told of the tremendous increase in the Snow Goose population and how they are destroying much of the arctic tundra in their nesting areas. Over 35% of the natural habitat had been destroyed and another 30% severely damaged along a 1,200 mile length of the arctic coastline surrounding Hudson and James Bays. Scientist recommended that the population should be reduced to a level that can be sustained for the long term on the existing habitat. The current Snow Goose population would have to be reduced to half from three million to 1.5 million.

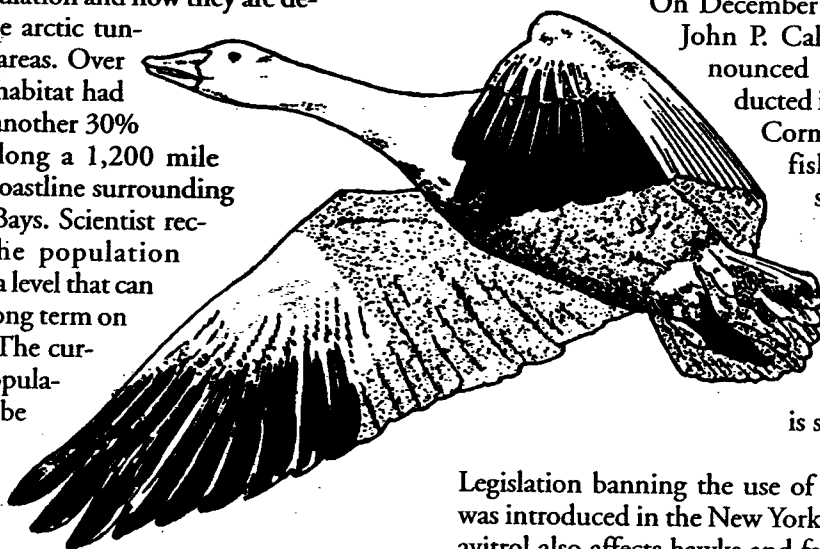
A terrible Labor Day storm on September 7, 1998 not only killed two people and destroyed some homes, but tore down hundreds of trees in the Syracuse area and its path to the east. Gene Huggins wrote of two trees not

native to the area that survived the storm. One was a Dawn Redwood at Oakwood Cemetery, a member of the cypress family, and the other is a large Limber Pine, a western species and possibly the only one in this area. This pine survived in the Syracuse Fair Grounds, one of the places hardest hit by the storm.

Gene Huggins has been faithfully counting the passage of Common Nighthawks from mid to late August for six years. 1998 was the second best flight since 1993, when the count began. In 1993 there were 532 and in 1998, there were 517. The count is held in front of the Syracuse University Student Housing on Slocum Drive, Syracuse.

An article was found that had been published in the Syracuse Newspapers in the summer of 1943. The article told of a twelve year old boy discovering an American Egret at Onondaga Lake. The bird was nearly extinct in its natural habitat because plumage hunters had killed them off for the feathers to be used in women's hats. It had rarely been seen that far north. The sighting was verified by the boy's mentor, Aubrey Stevens, a postman who had befriended a group of boys interested in birdwatching. The twelve year old boy who had first identified the bird was Francis (Fritz) Scheider.

Zebra mussels had been introduced in North America in 1986 and had spread to many other bodies of water, even to Oneida Lake in 1991. Dr. Edwin Mills, Director of the Cornell Biological Field Station at Shackelton Point in Madison County, came to OAS on February 10, 1999 to discuss the major changes that have occurred since this mussel invasion. Dr. John Howard and Dr. JoAnne Oliver spoke at the March 10th meeting on *Blood-sucking Insects of Central New York*.



On December 17, 1998, Commissioner John P. Cahill of the NYSDEC announced the result of studies conducted in 1998 on Double-crested Cormorant predation of sport fish in Lake Ontario. The study appears to show evidence of significant cormorant predation on smallmouth bass in eastern Lake Ontario basin, while in other areas the bass population is stable or improved.

Legislation banning the use of avitrol to poison pigeons was introduced in the New York Assembly. Unfortunately, avitrol also affects hawks and falcons that feed on the pigeons. Mary Alice Koeneke, interim Conservation Chair, requested that everyone write the assemblymen urging the passing of this legislation.

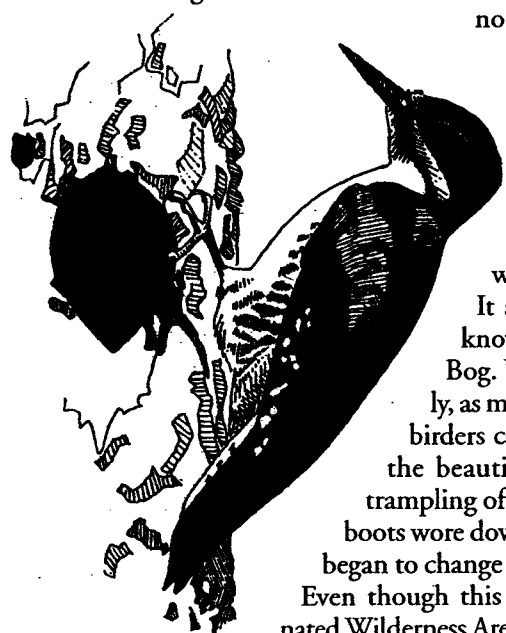
Two people received the OAS service award for 1998. Dr. Benjamin Burtt had written a birding column and conducted a backyard bird survey for forty years. His survey was the longest running survey of feeder birds in the nation. Don Barnes was the other recipient because of his dedicated service and contributions to help make Derby Hill what it is today.

At the compiling sessions after the Christmas Count each year, everyone votes on the most unusual species of bird located. In 1987, Ellie and Bob decided to award a stuffed owl to the person who found that bird. It was only kept for one year. The winner was required to add some item of clothing or equipment before passing the Christmas owl along. *This had added much to the challenge of the competition and the owl is no longer stuffed, it is overstuffed. In 1999, the owl finally received a name, Charles Atlas, because OAS was again working on a Breeding Bird Atlas and Charles had his official pen and checklist.*

The program for April 14, 1999 was Dr. Jeffrey Wells, New York State Important Bird Area Coordinator updating people on the 127 IBAs and describing some of the sites. On May 12th, Dr. Steven Broyles of SUNY-Cortland would speak of *Sexual Secrets of our Woodland Herbs*.

The legislation to ban the poison Avitrol passed the New York State Assembly unanimously. The companion Senate bills were next to be voted on. Legislation had been proposed that would use revenues from outer continental shelf oil and gas leases to re-energize the Land and Water Conservation Act. Two bills assign at least 50 percent of the total revenue from leases to be returned to individual states. For New York State, funds received could be as much as \$90 million annually.

Ferdinand LaFrance and his brother often went hunting in a beautiful bog in the Adirondacks where Ferd began to



notice unusual species of northern birds. He notified some bird-watchers and the word spread.

It soon became known as Ferd's Bog. Unfortunately, as more and more birders came to enjoy the beautiful bog, the trampling of many hiking boots wore down a path and began to change the drainage. Even though this was a designated Wilderness Area, permission

was granted to build a boardwalk to protect the bog itself. Now thanks to a few years of struggle on the part of Gary Lee, Forest Ranger, and numerous letters written to the governor and the head of the DEC, a plastic boardwalk has been built at the entrance to the bog. Plastic was used in construction rather than treated wood for fear of leaching of contaminants in the bog.

Earth Day cleanup at Whiskey Hollow in Baldwinsville would take place at 9:00 am on April 24, 1999. This would be followed by a hike through some of the beautiful habitat. Several local Boy Scout Troops had been invited to participate. Whiskey Hollow is considered a unique area due to its diversity of plant species. There are both northern and southern species of trees, a clear fast flowing stream and a spring that has provided water to people from all over the area from at least 1910. Due to the diversity of habitat, there is also diversity of species of birds, including Cerulean Warblers, Northern Parulas, and Acadian Flycatchers. National Audubon designated the area an Important Bird Area in 1998.

The Third Annual Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Festival would be held on May 1 and 2, 1999 at Mexico Point Park, Mexico, New York. There would be many activities, live birds of prey artwork and shuttle service to Derby Hill.

The New York State Waterfowl Census, held January 16-24, 1999, had 32 species for the highest count ever. This included two rarities, the Yellow-billed Loon and an immature Trumpeter Swan.

Marie Read, an acclaimed wildlife photographer, would describe her trip to Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico and show slides of the many species of birds that spend time at the refuge. This program would be presented at the Annual Banquet at the Syracuse Corinthian Club on June 9, 1999. On Wednesday, September 8, Jian Zhou, visiting scholar from the People's Republic of China, would present a program *Black Necked Crane Management in Southern Tibet*.

Ten commercial charter fishermen from the Henderson Harbor area were convicted in the slaying of more than 850 young cormorants on Little Galloo Island in July 1998. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has denied the NYSDEC the permit to kill 300 adult cormorants on Little Galloo. However, they will allow the NYSDEC to oil eggs in an effort to reduce the reproduction on the island.

The May 15, 1999 Birdathon, with 43 teams and 116 participants, found a record high 200 species for the day. The three top teams had 135 species, 134, and 132, respectively. The bird of the day was Sandhill Crane spotted by Gerard Phillips at Derby Hill. Many prizes were to be awarded and total fund-raising had not yet been calculated.

Emulating Charles Atlas, the Christmas Owl, Bernie Carr had suggested that something in remembrance of Phil Clarke be passed from year to year to the person who found the most unusual species of bird the day of the Birdathon. Two species of birds have a name beginning with Clark—a grebe and a nutcracker. Sue Adair did a drawing of a Clark(e)'s Nutcracker that was framed and given to each winner to enjoy for a year.

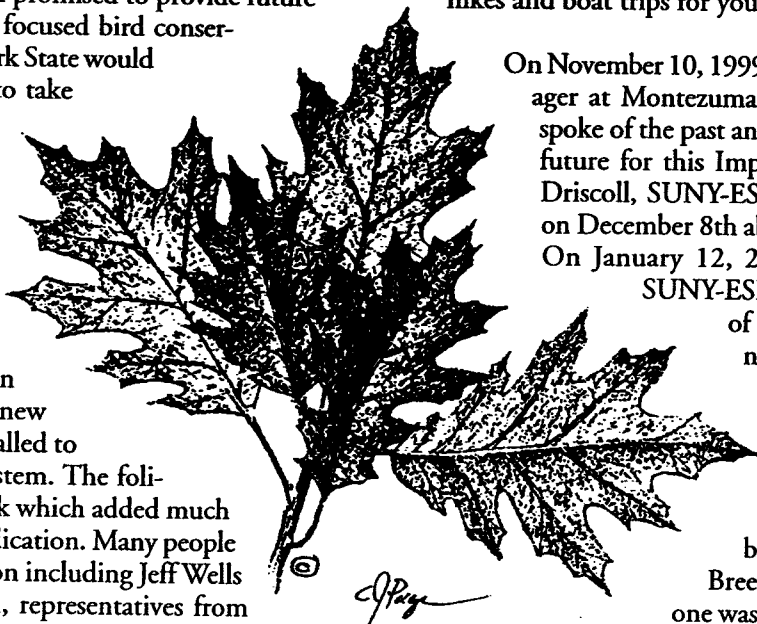
In 1992, OAS had printed a new checklist, but it was outdated with many changes in names and distribution of species. A new checklist was printed in 1998 showing 255 species of birds that occur in central New York regularly. This new checklist will undoubtedly be out of date soon.

Judy Thurber reported on the success of the new south lookout, now called South Hill. Pete Davidson constructed and donated a bench for this new and improved lookout.

In the September-October 1999 Annual Report, the programs listed were *Fossils of Central New York* presented by Dr. Rob Ross of the Palaeontological Research Institute on Wednesday, September 8th. This would be followed by Dr. Robert Phillips of SUNY-Oneonta talking about the Flying Squirrel. *Coincidence—the night before I was writing this, I remembered I had neglected to bring the suet in to protect it from marauding raccoons. I turned on the outside lights and there was a flying squirrel eating suet. I had never seen one in my yard before.*

The National Audubon Society of New York State was proposing to add \$300,000 a year in state funds in the NYSDEC budget to initiate an integrated bird conservation program. Other National bird oriented programs were being merged into a single funding and priority setting program. The Teaming with Wildlife Initiative had gained support in Congress and promised to provide future funding. With a strong focused bird conservation program, New York State would be in a prime position to take advantage of the federal matching funds.

Ferd's Bog was to be dedicated on September 25, 1999 as an Important Bird Area. Ferd's Bog is located in the Adirondacks between Old Forge and Inlet. A new boardwalk had been installed to protect the fragile ecosystem. The foliage was near or at its peak which added much to the pleasure of this dedication. Many people took part in the dedication including Jeff Wells from National Audubon, representatives from DEC, many members of Ferd LaFrance's family,



Dorothy Crumb and Forest Ranger Gary Lee who had worked hard to see that the boardwalk was built.

Several trails at Noyes had been completed and new signs installed. Big news was the discovery of several small American chestnut trees and one about twenty feet high along the green trail.

In 1998, the recipient of the Ruth Engelbrecht Memorial Scholarship was Rick Garrett, a high school science teacher in Skaneateles. In addition to twenty-seven free subscriptions to Audubon Adventures and the scholarship, OAS participated in many nature education out-reach activities. The Birdathon cleared a record \$7,000, part of which pays for the Audubon Adventures subscriptions.

In 1999, Derby Hill had the lowest migration count since record keeping started, with a total of 25,827 raptors. Both eagle species did well with 23 Golden Eagles and 92 Bald Eagles. Merlins and Peregrines did well with 38 and 14, respectively. Gerard Phillips, hawk counter, survived the poor season and agreed to try again next year.

Bill Purcell continued the Rare Bird Alert and reported a number of unusual species, including a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Greater White-fronted Goose, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Bill received one of the two Outstanding Service Awards for maintaining the OAS's current "hotline." Bob Asanoma also received an Outstanding Award as past President and Noyes Sanctuary Board Member and current Treasurer and Program Director of OAS.

On Saturday September 18th, Cornell Cooperative Extension, in collaboration with the Nine Mile Creek Conservation Council and Save The County Land Trust co-sponsored an all-day family event to celebrate the natural wonders of Nine Mile Creek. There were many programs, hikes and boat trips for youngsters and adults.

On November 10, 1999, Thomas M. Jasikoff, Manager at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, spoke of the past and what he envisioned in the future for this Important Bird Area. Malanie Driscoll, SUNY-ESF Graduate Student spoke on December 8th about Wood Thrush habitat. On January 12, 2000 a recent graduate of SUNY-ESF, Benjamin M. Clock, told of his work in Belize studying neotropical migrant songbirds.

In the summer of 2000, NYSDEC and hundreds of volunteers would embark on the second NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. The first one was done twenty years ago and volunteers found nesting evidence for



242 species and three hybrids in the entire state. 550 blocks were covered in Region 5 and would need to be covered again. Bill Purcell and Dorothy Crumb would serve as coordinators for Region 5.

Sue Adair told of The Kestrels, the OAS team (Sue, Joe Brin, and Bill Purcell) taking part in the Montezuma Muckrace. The birding was slow and they wound up with free T-shirts and 105 species of birds, raising \$100 for the refuge.

The third Annual New York State/America Recycles Day was held November 15, 1999. The day was dedicated to making people aware of how they could reduce waste, reuse and buy recycled products and increase the quality of the environment in the process.

New York State Office of National Audubon, under the guidance of David Miller had secured \$200,000 of funding into the annual NYSDEC budget which will initiate an integrated bird conservation program for New York State. This money would also allow for hiring two ornithologists for the NYSDEC staff.

The February-March 2000 issue of *The Kestrel* stated that Gail C. Hall, SUNY-ESF graduate student was to share her experiences during eight months on an uninhabited island in southeast Alaska—*The Heart of the Tongass National Forest*. This program was scheduled for February 9, 2000. On March 15, 2000, Gerard Phillips, Derby Hill counter and world birder would present a rare glimpse of marine mammals, seabirds, and vagrant landbirds of the southeast Farallon Islands, California.

A long list of endangered, threatened and species of special concern had been released by NYSDEC on December 5, 1999. It was also available on their website, <http://www.dec.state.ny.us>.

Mary Alice Koenke, now president of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, would preside over the next meeting, September 8-10 in Waterloo, New York. The meeting was hosted by the Eaton Birding Society of Geneva. Julie Zickefoose, artist, author and lecturer, presented the program.

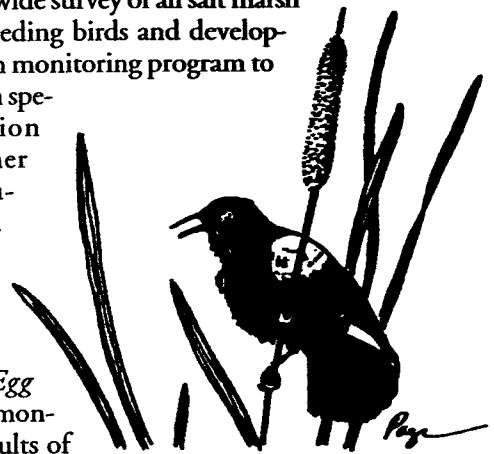
Kyle Wright started editing a page in *The Kestrel* for children, called *The Nest Box*. There was a short article about Common Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills, a drawing of

a Whip-poor-will by Kyle, and a drawing of a Hooded Merganser by Noah VanNorstrand. Other youngsters were asked to send articles or pictures to be published.

John Cashier reported that for the first time in twenty years, Derby Hill had lost all federal funding for the annual hawkwatch. Gerard Phillips had been hired to count hawks for the 2000 season, but the Derby Hill board was asking all OAS members to help defray the cost by making donations.

Vice-President Barb Reuter told of what she felt was the privilege of attending an Audubon Council Meeting in Albany, October 1-3, 1999. On Saturday they were treated to a bird banding session, visited Kings Park, an IBA, and attended a meeting which covered many phases of conservation. A round table discussion brought out the differences between various Audubon Chapters and problems, concerns and issues were varied. Barb ended by saying that she was impressed that "Audubon is not just a typical bird club any more; it wields a lot of clout and is accomplishing many good things for natural resource conservation."

On April 12, 2000, Greg Shriver, a Ph.D Candidate at SUNY-ESF, told how he was developing and conducting a New England wide survey of all salt marsh habitat for breeding birds and developing a long-term monitoring program to detect trends in species population levels. Another graduate student from ESF, Paul B. Hai, presented a program *Putting the "Egg" Back into Egg Rock*. He was monitoring the results of Atlantic Puffin restoration on Egg Rock Island in Maine.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service planned to develop a national cormorant management plan. This project would take thirty months to complete. The NYSDEC conducted a Bald Eagle aerial survey on January 15, 2000 for the twenty-first consecutive year. Another record was broken. In southeast New York the tally was 218 Bald Eagles. Another twenty Bald Eagles were found along the St. Lawrence River. West Nile Encephalitis had become a major concern. The disease is transmitted through mosquitoes that bite infected birds and in turn transmit the disease to other birds, animals and people. In the summer of 1999 in downstate New York the disease resulted in seven human deaths and eighty non-fatal cases. Many crows had died from the disease. The Bronx Zoo is the center for tracking the virus and was searching for communal crow roosts.

The Fourth Annual Bird Festival was to be held on May 5-7 at Mexico Point Park in Mexico. Shuttle Service to Derby Hill would again be available.

At the June 21, 2000 banquet, Dr. Larry Wolf from the Biology Department of Syracuse University spoke of hummingbirds in the Americas and sunbirds in East Africa. James Goetz, SUNY-ESF graduate student at the September 13th OAS meeting, told of the intensive study of Bicknell's Thrush by a team of Vermont researchers. James had studied Bicknell's Thrush for five years from its nesting grounds in Vermont to its wintering grounds in the Caribbean.

Andy Mason, Conservation Chair for the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, wrote that one of New York's greatest natural resources—our State Forests—was under threat from plans to allow motorized vehicles, ATVs, and dirt bikes into the woods. In Central New York, the Department of Environmental Conservation is proposing to build an 80- to 100-mile system of ATV and dirt bike trails in the Treaty Line State Forests, an 18,000 acre tract of public lands located in Broome, Chenango, and Delaware Counties. This plan would cost nearly \$3 million along with a \$190,000 annual maintenance budget. It was suggested that members write NYSDEC and object to these trails.

On May 11, 2000, the House voted to pass the Conservation and Reinvestment Act. By funneling revenue from the depletion of America's non-renewable resources—oil and gas deposits off the outer continental shelf—toward our renewable resources, this bill would provide \$2.8 billion in funding to protect our natural legacy.

Thirty teams with ninety participants took part in the May 20, 2000 Birdathon. 186 species were found with Bill Purcell's team regaining their lost crown with 135 species. The bird of the day was a Sedge Wren, found by last year's winners, Gerard and Maryanne Phillips. They again took home the coveted Clark(e)s Nutcracker Award.

Barb Reuter, Lin Garrepy, and Ruth Standridge attended the spring meeting of the Audubon Council of New York State March 24-26, 2000 in Saratoga Springs. Forty-one resolutions were reviewed and passed. There were speakers about the IBA and the Breeding Bird Atlas. There was also a lengthy discussion on National Audubon's policy regarding membership.

The Nest Box, the page for children, had an article about niger seed by Andrew Van Norstrand, age 12 and a Barn Owl drawing by his 10 year old brother Noah. Two third

grade classes from Elmwood Elementary School wrote brief articles about birds of prey.

In the September-October 2000 *Kestrel* it was announced that Dr. Thomas Donnelly, retired from SUNY-Binghamton would speak on October 11th of *Dragonflies and New Interest in a Very Old Bug*. On November 8th, C. J. Hazell, a SUNY-ESF Graduate student, spoke of his research on interaction between wolves and golden jackals in Kyrgyzstan, a new republic in Central Asia.

Two areas of New York State received the designation of State Bird Conservation Areas by Governor George Pataki. One was the 12,000-acre Mongaup Gap in Sullivan and Orange Counties and the second was the 2,200 acre Bashkill Wildlife Management Area in Sullivan County.

There were three big changes in personnel for OAS. Cathy Kerr, a relatively new member, had already contributed a lot of time by helping with the Birdathon and Bird Festival, serving as Hospitality Chair, and being on the board of both OAS and Derby Hill. Now she had agreed to relieve Mary Alice Koeneke of the job as Conservation Chair. Second, Bill Purcell, now co-coordinator of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, decided to step down from the Rare Bird Alert telephone system. A new Bird Box system was being established by Gerard Phillips. And Andy Leahy had to give up his Presidency a year in advance because of out-of-town employment. Barb Reuter was moving into that position.



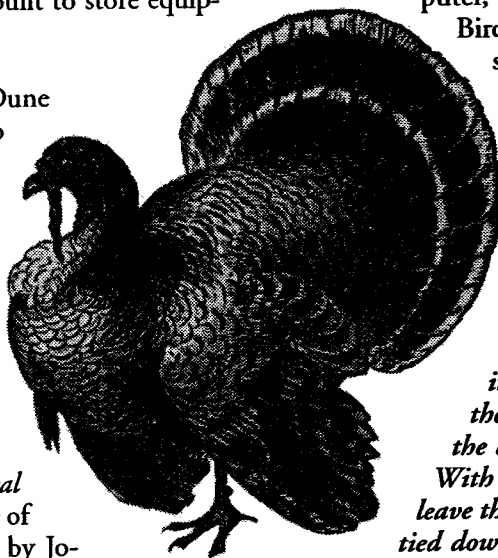
In the fall of 1999, most of the fallen trees had been cleared from the trails at Noyes Sanctuary and new plastic trail signs and the new Noyes trail signs with a fine rendition of the Golden-winged Warbler had been installed. After the winter, twenty-six more trees were blocking the trails on the first spring walk. Rain in April cancelled the work parties until April 27th when Bob Long, Walt Stewart, and Walt's granddaughter cleared trees from the Green-Blue-Red trail loop. Down the Red Trail they found 30 plastic Easter eggs, apparently abandoned when an Easter Egg hunt was rained out. Fun became pollution. Also disappointing was the absence of more than half of the new trail signs.

John Cashier, Derby Hill Board Chair called the spring 2000 migration "The Year of the Eagle." March 25th had the record breaking day of nineteen eagles—fourteen Bald Eagles and five Golden Eagles. Before spring was over, there were the amazing totals of 115 Bald Eagles and 92 Golden Eagles. Sharp-shinned Hawk continued its decline. The total seen was 2,782, versus a 5,512 average. Rarities that flew past Derby this year were Sandhill Cranes, Common Raven, Ross' Goose, Short-eared Owls, Cattle Egret, Sedge

Wren and a White-winged Crossbill that put on a nice show at the feeders.

Also at Derby Hill, Walt Stewart and Bob Keating did a good job of clearing the bluff of the brush that had been blocking the view. A new garage was built to store equipment and fuel for the mower.

Marge Rusk wrote of the Ontario Dune Coalition and the work it was doing to try to protect and stabilize the dunes. In the fall of 1999 she helped replant beach grass at Sandy Pond and tried to be patient waiting for spring—waiting to see if the new beach grass would grow. The coalition also built dune walkovers, cleared trash, and tried to educate the public to the great value of dunes and their protection.



National Park Protection and Tropical Forests in Central America was the title of a talk given on December 13, 2000 by Joseph D. Cornell, a PH.D. candidate and Visiting Professor at SUNY-ESF. On January 10, 2001, Dr. William Porter, a Professor at SUNY-ESF spoke of his twelve year research on Wild Turkeys.

An Interior Appropriation bill had a \$12 billion, six year funding measure which increased funding for land acquisition at the state, local, and federal levels. Although the appropriation figures seemed high, it was less than 1% of our nation's overall budget for defense.

The student newsletter of the OAS, *The Nest Box*, continued with articles about Penguins by Kyle Wright and Gyrfalcons by Andrew VanNorstrand.

Sue Adair again wrote of their gains and misses on the Montezuma Muckrace 2000. The OAS team with many accumulated years of birding behind them were determined to find more species than any of the youth teams. But they had not counted on the competition from three girls from Rochester, aged 11 to 17, and a fourth, Jenny Brumfield, from Ohio. In 1999, Jenny was awarded the Leica/American Birding Association Young Birder of the Year Award for 13-15 year olds. Unfair competition. The youth team, called the Lakeside Chickadees, came in sixth in the overall competition. OAS came in ninth.

On October 7, 2000, six OAS Board members and Gerard Phillips, not on the board, attended a "Board Retreat." National Audubon was changing its dues sharing policy, which would mean less money for OAS and the need to raise money in other ways. Tony and J.C. Deobil of Wilderness Resources offered the retreat. OAS's strength and weaknesses and other means of raising money were dis-

cussed. One of the main goals seemed to be to get more people actively involved.

The Onondaga Audubon Society's new rare bird alert system, called The Upstate New York Birdbox, run by a computer, had been set up. A birder calls the Birdbox, 315-637-0318, and is given instructions to push various keys on a touch-tone phone. You can leave a message or listen to messages. The prompts are easy and messages can come in from anywhere around the state. *Having managed the rare bird alert phone in my home for five years, I can appreciate what a good system this is. When a rare bird was around, I often couldn't leave to chase it myself until I had put a message on the OAS phone. A few minutes can mean the difference in seeing or missing a bird. With the Birdbox, people who see the bird leave their own messages and no one person is tied down to the job. Thanks, Gerard Phillips for setting this up.*

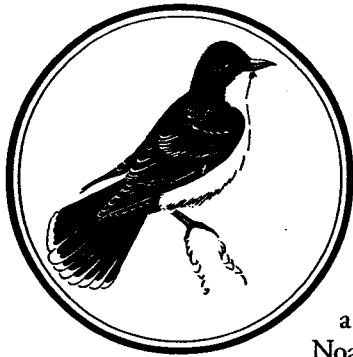
Gene Huggins again reported the results of the Common Nighthawk flight for eighteen days, August 13-31. The flight was above the average of 341 for the seven previous years with 378 nighthawks counted.

The February-March 2001 Kestrel marked the beginning of our 50th Anniversary year. It was usually the beginning of our 51st year of OAS, but I never did get these dues straight to you.

Our President, Barb Reuter, presented our February 14th program with her tales of a three-week trip through South Africa. The slides were beautiful and her discussions of various ecosystems and plants most informative. *Bats!!* was the next presentation by Dorothy Barr, SUNY-ESF Graduate Student. Among other things, she mentioned that there were almost 1,000 species of these true flying mammals in the world and nine in New York State.

Two pieces of legislation affected OAS. The bill to establish a hunting season on Double-crested Cormorants was not brought up before Congress adjourned. President Clinton signed into law the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Mary Alice Koeneke was again acting as Conservation Chair and urged members to write to get President Clinton to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife before he left office.

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was planning to hold its Annual Meeting at the Quality Inn in Liverpool on September 14-16, 2001. Dorothy Crumb and Ann Brosseau were co-chairing this event. Dr. Tim Moermond from the University of Wisconsin-Madison was



the keynote speaker and David Sibley would be present on Friday night to sign his new book *The Sibley Guide to Birds*.

The Nest Box had an article by Andrew VanNorstrand on Snowy Owls and a drawing by his brother Noah of baby owls in a nest. There was also a puzzle to be solved by youngsters.

The weather was bad for the Syracuse area Christmas counts and most bodies of water were frozen. Totals remained low. Joe Brin was named keeper of Charles Atlas, the Christmas owl for finding a close relative, the Barred Owl.

In attempt to raise money, Onondaga Audubon was urging members to put articles up for sale on the Ebay trading site. An arrangement had been made where OAS would receive a percentage of the sale if a member listed the sale through them. Sandy Fox at Fox Antiques and Collectibles in Oswego was handling the sales and could be reached at 315-342-9978 or Sfox0001@twcny.rr.com.

Bill Purcell and Dorothy Crumb reported that they had received about 200 final forms from participants in the first year of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Both Bill and Dorothy, as coordinators, felt discouraged that more had not been accomplished. But the people in charge of the entire statewide project felt that Region 5 had done very well. Many people had called or written to say how much they learned while working on this project and how they had enjoyed their time in the field.

Onondaga Audubon Society had a new website, run by Molly Thompson. It tells of meetings and field trips, rare bird alert, and Derby Hill results. Those of you connected to computers should take a look <<http://www.onondagaaudubon.org>>.

Splendors of the Hawaiian Archipelago was the topic of a talk by Bob Cooper, Naturalist at Cumming Nature Center on Wednesday, April 11, 2001. On May 9th, Mitch Hartley, Forest Ecologist for the National Audubon Society of New York State, was scheduled to speak on *The Biological Value of Whiskey Hollow*.

Mary Alice Koeneke reported that most conservation news coming from Congress was rather depressing, with many conservation issues subject to possibly being overturned.

It was hoped the Conservation and Reinvestment Act would be passed.

It was feared that the Lake Ontario Bird Festival would not be held this year. But then plans were made to hold it in a new location for one day only. The date was May 6, 2001 and it would be at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort Mexico, New York with the usual shuttle service to Derby Hill.

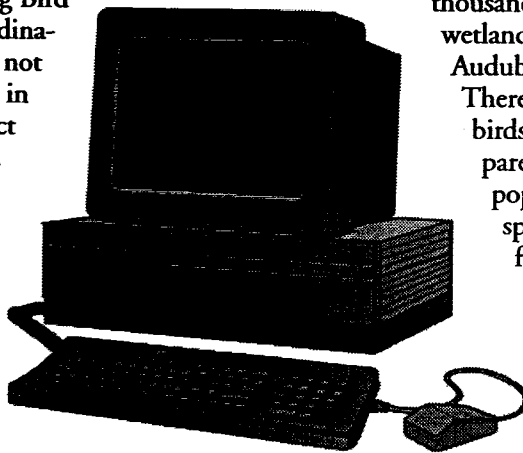
An update was being planned for the successful bird guide *City Cemeteries to Boreal Bogs*. Original contributors were asked to look up their original contributions and update them as soon as they could. Also a few other birding locations would be added to the book.

In the future: Gerard Phillips was returning for the hawk count at Derby Hill; the Birdathon would be held on Saturday, May 19th; and the annual banquet would be on June 20th with Scott Sutcliffe from the Cornell Lab as the main speaker.

* * * * * THE END * * * * *

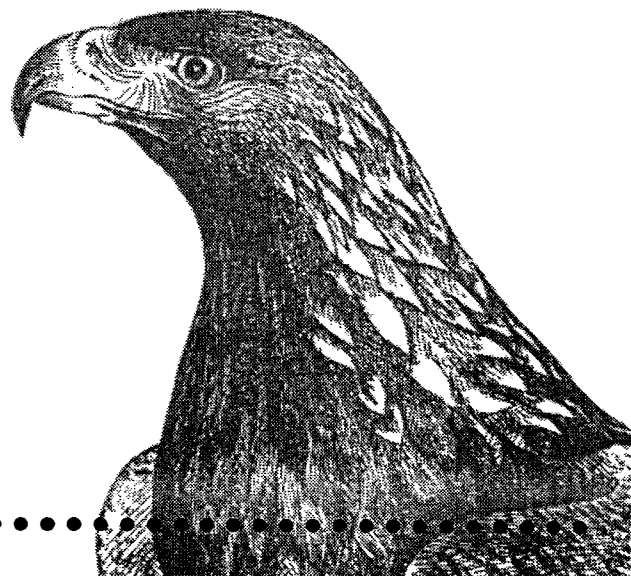
No. It's not!

In 1951 there were a handful of people starting out on a long project. There was no newsletter, only an occasional mimeographed sheet of field trips and meetings. There were thousands of migratory birds and many open wetlands and woodlots. In 2001 Onondaga Audubon Society has over 1,500 members. There are thousands fewer of migratory birds, fewer wetlands and woodlots. Apparently, the change was inevitable. The population continues to grow and more space is needed for homes and landfills. OAS has been instrumental over these fifty years in creating an awareness in our environment—an awareness that these things that have been disappearing are critical to healthy living. Much land has been preserved: locally, such areas as Labrador Pond, Sandy



Pond, Derby Hill, Baltimore Woods, Beaver Lake, and Noyes Sanctuary. There are many controls that have been put in place. It is a long, difficult fight that must be continued through the next generations.

Another part of the future that interests me is the technology. OAS started with typewriters and mimeograph machines. Now *The Kestrel* is computer generated. How will it be produced ten, twenty, or thirty years from now? We have lived through fifty years of many changes and there are many more to come. We can only hope the changes are beneficial.



List of Officers

1951

President Josiah Lowe

1953-1954

William Minor

Ben Burtt

Beryl Dunning

Fritz Scheider

George Courtney

1954-1955

Fritz Scheider

Lee Chamberlaine

Marge Mathis

Walter Spofford

George Courtney

1955-1956

Walter Spofford

Mrs. Orry Evans

Marge Mathis

Mrs. William Curtis

William Minor

1956-1957

(No Record)

1957-1958

(No Record)

1959-1960

Bruce Peterson

Ruth Gould and Ben Burtt

Marge Mathis

Margaret Rusk

Roberta Seaman

1961-1962

Hubert Ives

Bruce Peterson

Marge Mathis

Helen MacMillan

Roberta Seaman

1962-1963

Hubert Ives

Ben Burtt

Marge Mathis

Mary Woolley

Roberta Seaman

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1963-1964

Hubert Ives

Ted Dittrich

Betty Starr

Dorothy Dawley

Roberta Seaman

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1964-1965

Ted Dittrich

David Beebe

Betty Starr

Dorothy Dawley

Roberta Seaman

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1965-1966

Ted Dittrich

David Beebe

Helen MacKnight

Mary Woolley

Roberta Seaman

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1966-1967

David Beebe

Stuart Hosler

Harriette Hilton

Mary Woolley

Helen MacKnight

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1967-1968

David Beebe

Stuart Hosler

Harriet Hilton

Mary Woolley

Helen MacKnight

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1968-1969

Stuart Hosler

Michael Thomas

Harriette Hilton

Mary Woolley

Helen MacKnight

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1969-1970

Stuart Hosler

C. Alan Baker

Harriet Hilton

Mary Woolley

Helen MacKnight

Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1970-1971

James Karp
Edward Street
Mary Wooley
Karen Slotnick
Dorothy Dawley
Kestrel Editor - Marge Rusk

1971-1972

James Karp
Robert Long
Mary Woolley
Karen Slonick
Dorothy Dawley
Kestrel Editor - Karen Slotnick
Annual Report - Marge Rusk

1972-1973

Robert Long
Michael J. Storey
Marion Bond
Unarda Boggs
William Brosseau
Kestrel Editor - Karen Slotnick
Annual Report - Marge Rusk

1973-1974

Karen Slotnick
Robert Long
Joan Storey
Unarda Boggs
William Brosseau
Kestrel Editor - Gail DeBaise

1974-1975

Karen Slotnick
Robert Long
Joan Storey
Janet Muir
Neil Killoran
Kestrel Editor - Gail DeBaise

1975-1976

David Muir
Greg Smith
Cindy Norderhus
Janet Muir
Neil Killoran
Kestrel Editor - Joan Storey

1975-1976

David Muir
Greg Smith
Cindy Norderhus
Janet Muir
Neil Killoran
Kestrel Editor - Joan Storey

1977-1978

Greg Smith
Cynthia Norderhus
Virginia Strader
Nancy Roberts
Robert Strader
Kestrel Editor - Joan Storey

1978-1979

Gregory Smith
Cynthia Page
Robert Doyle
Elizabeth Williams
Marge Mathis
Kestrel Editor - Marge Mathis

1979-1980

Cynthia Page
Paul DeBenedictis
Judy Oplinger
Ellie Long
Marge Mathis
Kestrel Editor - Judy Oplinger

1980-1981

Cynthia Page
Robert Long
Ellie Long
Diane Emord
Marge Mathis
Kestrel Editor - Cindy Page

1981-1982

Robert Long
Diane Emord
Ellie Long
Elizabeth Williams
Marge Mathis & Cathie Slack
Kestrel Editor - Cindy Page

1982-1983

Robert Long
Diane Emord
Elizabeth Williams
Cathie Slack
Kestrel Editor - Cindy Page

1983-1984

Gene Huggins
John Hanyak
Marion Ellis
Cathie Slack
Kestrel Editor - Elizabeth Williams

1984-1985

Gene Huggins
John Hanyak
Deborah Featherly
Diane Emord
Kestrel Editor - Elizabeth Williams

1985-1986

John Hanyak
John Rogers
Jeanne Lally
Diane Emord
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1986-1987

John Hanyak
John Rogers
Jeanne Lally
Diane Emord
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1987-1988

Ellen Long
Larry Linder
Jeanne Lally
Elva Hawken
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1988-1989

Ellen Long
Larry Linder
Diane Emord
Elva Hawken
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1989-1990

Larry Linder
Tom Shuman
Sue Adair
Elva Hawken
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1990-1991

Larry Linder
Tom Shuman
Natalia Garcia
Sue Adair
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1991-1992

Mary Alice Koeneke
Ruth Knight
Dick Askeland
Sue Adair
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1992-1993

Mary Alice Koencke
Ruth Knight
Dick Askeland
Sue Adair
Kestrel Editor - Bob Long

1993-1994

Sue Adair
Margaret Napoleon
Sue Boettger
Wayne Powell
Kestrel Editor - Philip Clarke

1994-1995

Sue Adair
Margaret Napoleon
Sue Boettger
Wayne Powell
Kestrel Editor - Sue and John Adair

1995-1996

Bob Asanoma
Jeanne Ryan
Sue Boettger
John Adair
Kestrel Editor - Sue and John Adair

1996-1997

Bob Asanoma
Jeanne Ryan
Molly Thompson
John Adair
Kestrel Editor - Sue and John Adair

1997-1998

Steve Rulison
Andy Leahy
Joyce Braun
John Adair - Roger Daigle
Kestrel Editor - Sue and John Adair
(Through September-October)

1998-1999

Steve Rulison - Andy Leahy
Andy Leahy
Jan Needham McGraw
Bob Asanoma
Kestrel Editor - Barbara Reuter

1999-2000

Andy Leahy
Barbara Reuter
Jan Needham McGraw
Bob Asanoma
Kestrel Editor - Barbara Reuter

2000-2001

Barbara Reuter
Molly Thompson
Jan Needham McGraw
Bob Asanoma
Kestrel Editor - Barbara Reuter