

DocID 80212

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New York 10520

Ms. Helen Chernoff
TAMS Consultants, Inc.
Bloomfield NJ 07003

October 7, 1999

Re: Hudson River Bird Sightings

Dear Ms. Chernoff:

The enclosed is in response to an e-mail sent to Anne Swaim regarding information the Saw Mill River Audubon Society might have on specific bird species and unusual sightings along the Hudson River.

The enclosed consists of (A) comments on specific birds and (B) a chart showing by species (not individuals) birds seen by me since October 1995 (with the exception of a White-crowned Sparrow sighting on September 17, 1994) at Croton Point Park in the county of Westchester NY. This chart does *not* reflect a scientific sampling, e. g.; five visits to the Park every month and the same walking route taken each visit. In fact, the July and August totals are low because of the infrequency of visits.

I hope these enclosures are useful to you. I can be reach by e-mail at Larryb@bestweb.net.

Sincerely


Larry Bickford

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Observations on Hudson River Birds

"Target" Birds

- *Tree Swallow* – Most seen in early spring in migration; lack of adequate nesting holes at Croton Point Park (CPP) may account for low summer number of sightings
- *Mallard* – Simply numerous; often found in standing, non-permanent pools and large puddles; probably limited nesting do to lack of proper habitat
- *Belted Kingfisher* – Note absence during breeding season, but present all other seasons; do appear to breed further north along the Hudson, e. g., Oscawana and George's Island Parks
- *Great Blue Heron* – Probably present or nearby all year round; hard to spot in certain areas of CPP; I know of no close by rookery
- *Bald Eagle* – The severer the winter weather, the more that will be around; this is also true of locations just north of us
- *Osprey* – Most occur during fall migration (Note: this summer the first successful raising of young in Westchester County in this century occurred at Marshlands Conservancy along the Long Island Sound; also see comments in the recently up-dated *Bull's Birds of New York State* regarding the absence of nesting trees; there are preliminary plans to build one or more potential nesting platforms at CPP)
- *Peregrine Falcon* – Seen several times during the last two years perch on the Bear Mt. Bridge
- *Northern Harrier* – Present all year except in breeding season
- *Red Shouldered Hawk* – The two sightings on the CPP chart are probably the same bird
- *Cooper's Hawk* – Generally seen on flyovers at CPP; but is seen fairly often in Northern Westchester; one was seen roosting in the upper oak grove at CPP several times in March 1999 and also in early September in the lower grove
- *Upland Sandpiper* – Lone sighting by this observer was this summer on the old landfill, but others have seen them too in fall migration
- *Short-eared Owl* – Probably present every winter for short periods; this writer's one sighting was in January 1997
- *Common Nighthawk* – One flyover observed at CPP
- *Eastern Bluebird* – Seldom seen at CPP, but common at Iona Island
- *Vesper Sparrow* – Sightings limited to October migrants at CPP

"Rare" Birds at CPP

- *Black Rail* – One flushed in the evening feeding at the edge of the landfill with a couple of sparrows
- *Chuck-will's-widow* – Flushed in the late afternoon; an apparent over-shot during migration; only third record for Westchester County
- *Franklin's Gull* – One of the many blown east in the fall of 1998; only recorded Westchester sighting
- *Orchard Oriole* – A first year male in song in late spring of 1999; this species is reported to nest at Iona Island
- *Prothonotary Warbler* – One seen in the late afternoon in shrubbery along a fence line on September 25, 1999
- *Red-headed Woodpecker* – One immature was present from late December 1998 into April 1999; Mature individuals were seen by others in November and December of 1999
- *Western Kingbird* – Rare inland East Coast sighting of this species in early September

By Larry Bickford

Census, Bird Population - 6 Years, starting January, 1994
Croton Point Park - New York Checklist selected

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
CORMORANTS													
Double-crested Cormorant	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	2	0	0	13
DUCKS, SWANS, GEESE													
Ruddy Duck	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	14
Mute Swan	3	2	0	5	1	1	1	3	4	2	1	1	24
Snow Goose	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Canada Goose	3	3	7	7	4	2	1	6	10	10	3	6	62
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Wood Duck	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mallard	2	4	6	8	3	2	1	5	3	5	2	4	45
American Black Duck	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Shoveler	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Canvasback	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Redhead	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Greater Scaup	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lesser Scaup	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Goldeneye	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bufflehead	7	5	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	27
Common Merganser	5	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS													
Little Blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Snowy Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Great Blue Heron	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	3	5	6	0	0	19
Great Egret	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	9
Green Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	5
Black-crowned Night-Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
NEW WORLD VULTURES													
Turkey Vulture	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	7
OSPREY													
Osprey	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	5	10	7	0	0	28
HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES													
Raid Eagle	6	5	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	20
Northern Harrier	5	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	7	8	2	2	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	7
Couper's Hawk	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	8
Northern Goshawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	3	4	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	4	26
Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
FALCONS AND CARACARAS													
American Kestrel	2	1	4	7	1	0	1	4	10	11	1	2	44
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
RAILS AND COOTS													
Black Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Virginia Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Sora	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
American Coot	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SANDPIPERS													
American Woodcock	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Common Snipe	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Census, Bird Population - 6 Years, starting January, 1994
Croton Point Park - New York Checklist selected

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Least Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
POULTERS AND LAPWINGS													
Semipalmated Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Killdeer	1	0	6	3	4	3	1	2	3	4	1	0	28
GULLS AND TERNS													
Ring-billed Gull	6	5	5	4	3	1	1	5	7	5	2	4	48
Great Black-backed Gull	4	4	5	4	1	1	1	3	7	5	0	2	37
Herring Gull	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	2	2	0	0	16
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Franklin's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Least Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
LOONS													
Common Loon	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
PIGEONS AND DOVES													
Rock Dove	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Mourning Dove	4	4	7	6	3	3	1	6	7	7	3	0	51
OWLS													
Great Horned Owl	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	7
Short-eared Owl	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NIGHTJARS													
Common Nighthawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Chuck-will's-widow	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SWIFTS													
Chimney Swift	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
HUMMINGBIRDS													
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
KINGFISHERS													
Belted Kingfisher	5	2	1	3	0	0	1	3	2	4	2	3	26
WOODPECKERS													
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	2	5	5	4	0	1	0	1	4	2	2	30
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	5	4	6	4	1	2	1	5	6	7	4	5	50
Hairy Woodpecker	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Northern Flicker	2	1	3	7	1	2	1	5	5	5	0	2	34
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS													
Eastern Wood-Pewee	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Acadian Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Willow Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5
Least Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	1	6	0	1	16
Western Kingbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Eastern Kingbird	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	7
CROWS AND JAYS													
Blue Jay	4	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	6	5	3	4	32
American Crow	6	4	7	7	5	3	1	6	9	9	4	4	65
Fish Crow	1	1	5	6	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	21
VIREOS AND ALLIES													
Yellow-throated Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
WAXWINGS AND SILKY-FLYCATCHERS													
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	2	0	2	0	11
THRUSHES													
Eastern Bluebird	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Hermit Thrush	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Wood Thrush	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
American Robin	4	2	5	7	3	3	1	4	7	9	3	1	49
MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS													
Gray Catbird	4	3	1	2	3	3	1	5	8	4	0	2	36

Census, Bird Population - 6 Years, starting January, 1994
Croton Point Park - New York Checklist selected

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Northern Mockingbird	5	0	4	3	4	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	33
Brown Thrasher	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
STARLINGS													
European Starling	5	3	6	6	4	3	1	6	9	6	4	3	56
NUTHATCHES													
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	3	5	2	0	1	1	1	5	3	3	3	33
CREEPERS													
Brown Creeper	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
WRENS													
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	7
Carolina Wren	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	17
Winter Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
House Wren	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	9
GNATCATCHERS													
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
SWALLOWS													
Tree Swallow	0	0	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	10
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	6
Barn Swallow	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	7
Cliff Swallow	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
KINGLETS													
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	9
CHICKADEES, TITS													
Black-capped Chickadee	6	4	7	4	2	1	1	2	5	6	4	5	47
Tufted Titmouse	2	2	4	3	2	2	0	1	2	3	1	3	25
LARKS													
Horned Lark	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
OLD WORLD SPARROWS													
House Sparrow	1	3	4	1	1	2	0	4	5	2	1	2	26
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS													
American Pipit	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	8
SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES													
American Goldfinch	3	3	2	4	4	3	1	5	5	6	4	5	45
House Finch	2	2	6	4	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	24
NEW WORLD WARBLERS													
Golden-winged Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Northern Parula	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	1	4	4	1	4	1	1	0	0	16
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Magnolia Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	10
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Blackburnian Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Warbler	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Prairie Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Palm Warbler	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	14
Blackpoll Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Black-and-white Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
American Redstart	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	7
Prothonotary Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Worm-eating Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	2	3	0	0	12
Canada Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
UNTINGS, SPARROWS, TANAGERS, ALLIES													
Snow Bunting	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Fox Sparrow	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

Census, Bird Population - 6 Years, starting January, 1994
Croton Point Park - New York Checklist selected

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Song Sparrow	6	4	6	5	4	3	1	4	8	11	3	6	61
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	5
White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	5	4	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	5	3	4	31
Dark-eyed Junco	4	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	20
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	3	0	5	2	1	0	3	4	2	1	22
Henslow's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
American Tree Sparrow	5	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	5	22
Chipping Sparrow	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	8
Field Sparrow	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	7
Vesper Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Eastern Towhee	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Scarlet Tanager	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dickcissel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Northern Cardinal	3	3	4	5	2	0	1	4	3	3	1	4	33
Indigo Bunting	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, ORIOLES													
Baltimore Oriole	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	9
Orchard Oriole	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-winged Blackbird	4	1	7	7	5	4	1	4	1	3	2	2	41
Eastern Meadowlark	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Common Grackle	2	0	5	7	3	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	26
Rusty Blackbird	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	2	3	2	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	16
Bobolink	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	7
Totals	190	116	210	213	159	95	43	178	255	258	100	122	1939
Species Totals	62	49	64	76	82	53	43	68	81	74	47	50	

166 Total Species

Printed October 5, 1999 ~ LARRYB data set

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