



*A Project of the*  
**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
*and*  
**NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
*in cooperation with*  
New York Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit  
Cornell University Department of Natural Resources  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
Audubon New York

## **NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 2000 NEWSLETTER**

NUMBER NINE

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### **Co-editors on Board for Atlas Publication**

The Atlas 2000 Steering Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Kevin McGowan has accepted the position of Co-editor of the Breeding Bird Atlas publication. Kimberley Corwin, who has been the Project Coordinator since the Atlas began in 2000, will work alongside Kevin as the other Co-editor.

Kevin comes to the Atlas from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where he has worked since 2001 to develop the website "All About Birds," an extensive and informative resource on the identification, natural history and conservation of birds. Prior to working at the Lab, Kevin was Curator of Birds and Mammals in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University since 1988. The early part of his career was spent in Florida where Kevin taught biology at several community colleges and worked as a nongame biologist for the FL Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Currently the President of the NYS Ornithological Association and the Cayuga Bird Club, Kevin's background in New York's birding community is strong and varied. His contributions include serving on the NYS Avian Records Committee and the Important Bird Areas NY Technical Committee, being the regional editor for NY Christmas Bird Counts, competing in the World Series of Birding with the Lab of Ornithology's team, The Sapsuckers, and instilling the love of birding in his enthusiastic son, Jay. On the national bird scene, Kevin is an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union and has served as Secretary for the Ornithological Societies of North America (OSNA).

A most interesting aspect of Kevin's work is his research on the reproductive and social behavior of American Crows. This work began in Ithaca in 1988 with the question, "Why is it that American Crows use helpers to raise their young while Fish Crows do not?" Kevin has marked more than 1,200 crows in an effort to learn more about what he refers to as a poorly understood species. You can read about his research at <http://birds.cornell.edu/crows/>.

#### **The Atlas Publication**

Kevin and Kim began their work as co-editors in January 2005 with the goal of completing the manuscript in two years. The 250+ species accounts, which will make up the bulk of the book, are likely to include the new distribution maps together with a map that illustrates positive or negative changes since the first Atlas survey. The text will focus on changes in distribution since the first Atlas and will include life history information that is new in the past two decades or pertinent to the discussion of any distribution changes. Nine artists have been working since the fall of 2004 to produce original artwork for the book and the process of hiring authors to write the species accounts has begun. The final publication is scheduled to be available to the public in 2007.



Kevin McGowan at crow nest



Kimberley Corwin

**Hudson - Mohawk Region 8**  
**by Mark Fitzsimmons and Jane Graves**

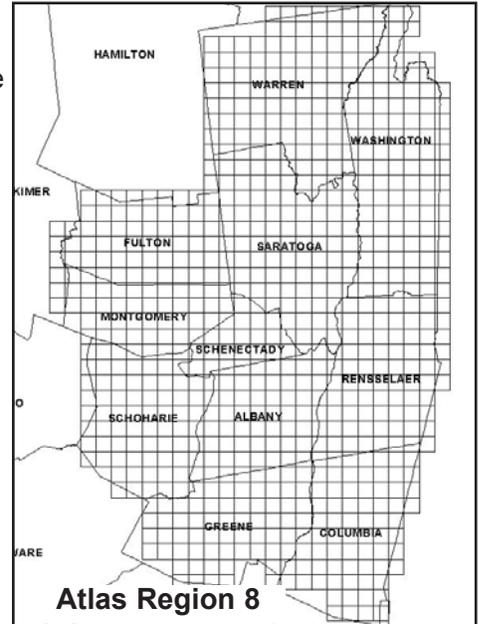
Region 8 is comprised of 755 Atlas blocks covering eleven counties (Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties), making it the largest atlas region in the State. Region 8 is also one of the most diverse Atlas regions. Elevations range from sea level along Hudson River tidal flats to more than 4,000 feet in the Adirondacks and Catskills. The Region includes the densely populated urban centers of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy and their associated suburban sprawl. In relatively undeveloped areas, uplands vary from expanses of open farmland to densely forested tracts, while wetlands range from isolated kettle hole bogs and tamarack swamps to extensive emergent marshes and wet meadows. The largest surface waters in the Region are Lake George, Lake Champlain Narrows, and Great Sacandaga Lake, as well as the Hudson and Mohawk rivers. The diversity of the Region is further enriched by unique habitats including the Albany Pine Bush, a globally rare inland pine barrens community; the Helderberg Escarpment, a 1,000+ foot, sheer limestone formation supporting several rare species; and Hudson River tidal wetlands.

The size and diversity of Region 8 contributes to a rich assemblage of breeding birds. Of the 241 species known to breed in the state, Region 8 volunteers have reported breeding evidence for 190 species (78%) through 2004, 158 (84%) of which have been confirmed. Approximately 98 percent of the species that can reasonably be expected to breed in the Region have been recorded thus far.

Most of the species that were recorded in the first Atlas have been accounted for in Atlas 2000. Most of those that have not been recorded include species with one or two rather exceptional or marginal records such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. In the case of Yellow-throated Warbler, its June 1984 confirmation in Greene County represented the first breeding record of this species in New York State history. One species, which was not considered exceptional or at the margin of its breeding range in the 1980s, but which has not been recorded thus far in Atlas 2000, is the Red-headed Woodpecker. While probably never numerous in New York State, this conspicuous and readily identifiable woodpecker was widely distributed across upstate New York with the Mohawk River Valley considered to be part of the core of its breeding range. Its absence from Region 8 thus far in the Atlas through 2003 is, therefore, especially noteworthy.

While it is somewhat unfortunate that certain species have not been relocated since the 1980s Atlas, a significant number of species not previously recorded in the first Atlas are now on record and several others are demonstrating greatly expanded ranges into Region 8. Species that have been recently confirmed as breeders in Region 8, but were completely absent from the Region in the first Atlas include: Double-crested Cormorant (34 records and 3 confirmed); Mute Swan (23 records and 4 confirmed); Bald Eagle (23 records and 4 confirmed); Peregrine Falcon (13 records and 9 confirmed); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (9 records and 1 confirmed); White-winged Crossbill (18 records and 1 confirmed); and Pine Siskin (30 records and 1 confirmed). Additionally, a colony of ten Monk Parakeets, which have not bred in upstate New York since well before the first Atlas, built and occupied a nest structure on the Hudson River near Albany over the last two years. While absolute breeding status has not yet been confirmed, eyewitness reports are still being pursued in an attempt to clarify this record. Other species absent from the Region in the 1980s, which have been recorded in Atlas 2000 albeit not confirmed, include Acadian Flycatcher (1 Possible record) and Boreal Chickadee (1 Probable record).

Records for several species clearly show range expansions since the 1980s. Already mentioned are the northward expansions by Double-crested Cormorant (1 possible record in the 1980s vs. 34 records and 3 confirmations in Atlas 2000) and Mute Swan (previously not recorded north of Ulster and Dutchess counties vs. 23 records and 4 confirmations in Atlas 2000). Other additional southerly species expanding northward include: Turkey Vulture (widely distributed Possible records with none confirmed in the 1980s vs. 304 records and 6 confirmed in Atlas 2000), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1 confirmed record in the very SE corner of the Region in the 1980s vs. 195 records and 39 confirmed in Atlas 2000), Fish Crow (10 records and one confirmed in the 1980s vs. 29 records and 9 confirmed in Atlas 2000), Hooded Warbler (1 Possible record in the 1980s vs. 5 Probable and 2 Possible records in Atlas 2000), and Carolina Wren (5 records with none confirmed in the 1980s vs. 80 records and 18 confirmations in Atlas 2000). Other southern species such as Black (continued on page 3)



## Meet Our Regional Coordinators: Hudson-Mohawk Region 8

### Mark Fitzsimmons

My family lived in Woodstock, Ulster County, when I was born, then proceeded to move nine times up and down the Hudson River Valley before I graduated from Suffern High School in Rockland County. My first interest in natural history was sparked by countless adventures catching turtles and snakes throughout most of my childhood. This was much to my mother's consternation, since many of my more serpentine specimens ended up escaping and taking refuge in places where she was most apt to find them. I had only a passing interest in birds, and those were mostly at our backyard feeders.

I attended Windham College in Vermont and received a Bachelors degree in Biology. At that time, my interests in animals turned more to histology and physiology, and any interest previously expressed in birds was somewhat diminished, probably due to the absence of bird feeders at my dorm. I did, however, undergo a major change in direction within biology and turned my attention to ecology. This led to a Masters degree in Wildlife Ecology from Purdue University studying the influence of habitat structure on two eastern cottontail populations in north-central Indiana. I also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of other wildlife research projects while at Purdue ranging from radio tracking sauger in the Wabash River to cannon-netting sandhill crane in northern Indiana (my first noteworthy bird experience).

It was in Graduate School where my years of passively ignoring birds was refined to a purposeful avoidance, which I believe (continued on p. 5)

### Jane Graves

I was born in Enid, Oklahoma in 1941. Although my family lived in town, most of my relatives were farmers and I spent a great deal of time outdoors, where I developed an early interest in the natural world. As a small child, I was fascinated, not by birds, but by horned lizards and sowbugs. I routinely helped my grandmother seek out and kill (with a hoe!) the tarantulas that inhabited her garden. However, when I was five years old, I had a pet chicken, which no doubt set the stage for my later love of wild birds.

I attended the University of Kansas for undergraduate and graduate work, where I studied music, French, and art history. I received my Masters degree in Library Science at SUNY Albany. I am an Associate Professor at Skidmore College, where I have been the Visual Resources / Arts Librarian since 1969.

My background interests include music, natural history, hiking, travel, film, and reading. With my partner, Alison Van Keuren, I have traveled to Central and South America on numerous birding adventures. My interest in birding became focused when a Boreal Owl spent several days during the winter of 1978-1979 across the street from my house in Saratoga Springs. Volunteer activities connected with birds include an eight-year stint as *Kingbird* Region 8 editor (1994-2002) and acting on the Technical Advisory Board for the National Audubon Society New York State Important Bird Areas program.

I have enjoyed the opportunity of using my expertise in editing and data standards in my atlas work and coming into contact with volunteers.

(continued from page 2) Vulture, White-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, and Yellow-breasted Chat, to name a few, bear watching for indications of similar range expansions in the coming years.

Species that are either moving into Region 8 or are showing an increase in numbers in the Region since the first Atlas include the previously mentioned success stories of the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, as well as Osprey (a few records with none confirmed in the 1980s vs. 31 records and 2 confirmed in Atlas 2000), Common Raven (2 confirmed records in the 1980s vs. 206 records and 24 confirmed in Atlas 2000), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (no records in the 1980s vs. 9 records and 1 confirmed in Atlas 2000), Pine Siskin (no records in the 1980s vs 30 records and 1 confirmed in Atlas 2000), and Evening Grosbeak (2 confirmed records in the 1980s vs. 36 records and 9 confirmed in Atlas 2000). It should also be mentioned that two recent Possible records for Merlin in Region 8 may represent the early signs of one additional range expansion for a species not previously recorded.

Although the above is certainly good news in terms of the Region's overall species diversity, results from Atlas 2000 thus far have not been all good news. In addition to the dramatic decline in Red-headed Woodpecker records since the first Atlas, declines are also apparent in many of our grassland species, including Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. This pattern, which appears at least partially related to recent changes in agricultural practices, should be closely monitored with regard to these three species, as well as to other grassland-dependent species including Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink.

## **Atlas 2000 from Start to Finish** **the love, the labor, and what we learn** by Kimberley Corwin, Atlas Co-editor

The early mornings, the early-to-bed evenings, the boxed lunches, the forgotten lunches (darn!!), the miles we have driven and the miles we have walked (or biked!). Regional Coordinators have studied their maps of assigned and completed blocks and have toiled over how to get those unclaimed ones covered. Field workers have brushed up on bird songs and learned about habitat use while spending summer days building species lists. And come late summer, we all sit down with our field cards and scribble away until we see orange bubble forms in our heads at night (sorry!). Hopefully, we are also inspired to recall some of the great experiences we enjoyed during the field season. Whether you have participated in the Atlas from its beginning in January 2000 or finished your first field season in 2004, these are the things that come to mind when we think of our Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 Project. *The focus has been on field work.*

But what about when the field work ends? Now that five years have passed and the project is winding down, atlasers across the state are wondering what they will do with their extra time. In early 2005, the Atlas Steering Committee and Regional Coordinators met to discuss what fieldwork we still need to do. While most of the regions have reached our goals for adequate coverage, some have not. We plan to focus efforts in 2005 on blocks where numbers of species are low. Please see the article on page six for our specific plan.

Meanwhile, though, the Atlas is drawing attention from researchers and land managers who have been watching our hard work to collect data and are anxious to begin querying this new source of information. Some would argue that this is the most exciting part of the project. This is the time when the focus of the Atlas turns from the field work to the database that has resulted. And where we go from here is almost endless!

One reason why the Atlas data are so interesting and valuable is that there are now two databases that can be queried and compared. The first database includes records from 1980-85 and the current one includes records from 2000-04. What sort of uses are we seeing? DEC biologists responsible for Black Tern monitoring are using atlas data to learn about new sites. Several other DEC biologists are using atlas data to write new Unit Management Plans and to update old ones. A doctoral candidate at SUNY's College of Environmental Science and Forestry is using the Atlas databases to correlate land use changes with avian species richness; he hopes to determine the threshold at which species can no longer tolerate habitat fragmentation. New York's Natural Heritage Program is digitizing the Notable Species Forms in their ongoing effort to track rare species. Several environmental consulting firms have requested species lists for parcels of land that they are trying to protect. And finally, but no less important, both databases in their entirety will be made available to the public by the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

New York State is among the leaders in North America for conducting atlases of breeding birds. This is something that we've been proud of since the publication of the first Atlas in 1988 and as we took on the great challenge of once again achieving 100% coverage of the state in this second Atlas. Now we can be proud of the valuable new database that has resulted and will be used for decades to come. We also anxiously anticipate the publication of the second Atlas. What a grand time we have had making history and what a difference we have made for our magnificent bird species!



### **Wise Robin**

At the Schuyler Town Park, a fake owl was strapped to the wall on top of the electrical box. On top of the owl was an American Robin nest, complete with incubating female.

*Brenda Best,  
Region 5*

## Atlas by Bike

Back in 2000, Richard Faille of Huntington, Québec, began riding his bicycle down across the Trout River border crossing to add to the records in mini-Blocks 5598D and 5698C that include territory in both the US and Canada. Although Dan Nickerson of Maine and Mike Peterson of Elizabethtown and Montréal had blockbusted the area, Richard added a number of species and upgraded others. He advises Mike:

"I just wanted to say thanks for your support over the project. At times it's been a long five years, but the amount of knowledge I've gained is amazing. From a total neophyte about birds, I have decided I am going to keep birding after the project is over. It helps me fill two great needs in my life:

1) To get outdoors, and 2) To keep learning things. Sincerely, RCAF [Richard Charles Albert Faille]"

All of us share his joy in exploration and education.

*Mike Peterson, Region 7 Coordinator*

## Changes in Hudson - Delaware Region 9

In 2004 Michael Bochnik left his position as coordinator in Atlas Region 9, which includes 527 blocks in Sullivan, Orange, Ulster, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester Counties. At the time that he left, about 80% of the blocks in the region had been visited by 115 volunteers. We thank Michael for the work he did during the first four years of the project and wish him well in his future endeavors.

In Michael's absence, four active atlasers stepped forward to act as county coordinators in Region 9: Barbara Butler in Dutchess County, Renee Davis in Sullivan County, Valerie Freer in Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester Counties, and Carol Weiss in Rockland County. These four dedicated people made dozens of phone calls to local atlas volunteers to arrange block assignments for the coming field season. Their results of their perseverance are visible in the block coverage map that appears on the Atlas website. A record 365 blocks were visited in the region in 2004, bringing the coverage to 95%. We are grateful to Barbara, Renee, Valerie, and Carol for their work.

Still, Region 9 remains one of three regions statewide that has not yet received adequate coverage and will remain open for atlas in 2005. Please contact your local coordinator to see if any blocks near you require additional surveying in 2005.

(Fitzsimmons continued) stemmed from intimidation by the resident ornithological expertise at Purdue. At the time, I was challenged by the idea of distinguishing, for example, flycatchers from vireos, but I must have experienced some degree of trauma after witnessing the telling of flycatchers from other flycatchers. Initially, I convinced myself that the very idea of more than one species of Empidonax flycatcher was merely a cruel hoax (this was shortly after being coaxed to eat an unripe persimmon by my major professor). By the time I received my degree, I had accepted the full range of species diversity in birds as more fact than myth, but had not become very proficient at either the science or the art of birding.

Gainful employment intruded on my life while I was innocently visiting my mother who was at the time living in Albany. Despite my intention to pursue a wildlife research position in the Midwest, I noted an announcement in the Sunday Times Union job listings for a terrestrial ecologist with the Albany County Environmental Management Council. Out of curiosity, I responded on Monday morning, was interviewed on Wednesday afternoon, and started work on Friday. That was 25 years ago, and while the job titles have changed along the way, I remain employed by Albany County to this day. Currently, I am Director of the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning as well as Director of the Office of Natural Resources.

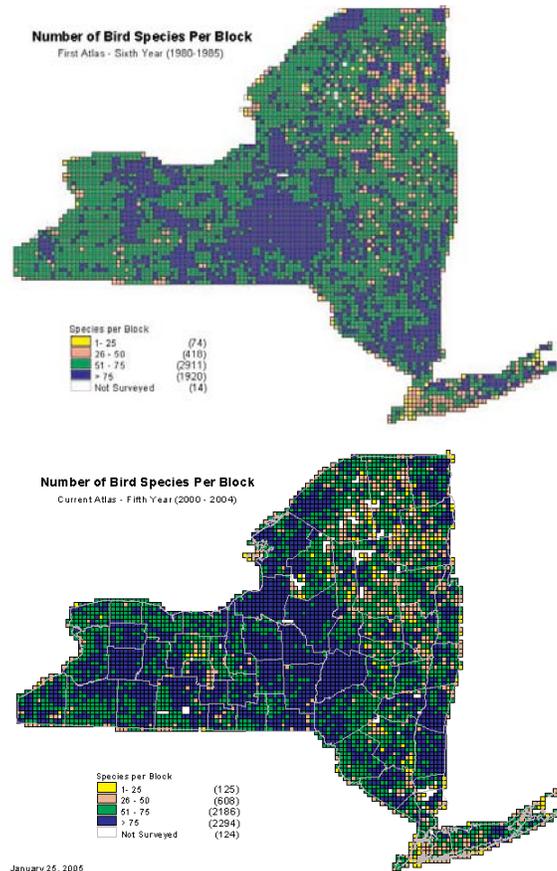
My childhood fondness for herps and research interest in mammal ecology have both continued to recent times; however, somewhere along the way, without any memorable instance coming to mind, my interest in birds began to grow, as did my appreciation and even my proficiency level. I signed up as a volunteer for the first Atlas in the 1980s and by some fateful turn of events, ended up as Region 8 Coordinator of that project. Thus started a more focused foray into birding, which has continued to grow throughout my second stint as Region 8 Coordinator, this time privileged to be working with my co-coordinator, Jane Graves. Both Atlases have been valuable learning experiences and presented opportunities to meet several quality people who I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

## Field Work in 2005

The 2004 field season was the final regular field season of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The 2005 field season is intended to be devoted to clean up fieldwork. We will be using blockbusters to meet the following goals in order of priority:

1. Survey as many unvisited blocks as possible.
2. Survey as many blocks as possible with fewer than 25 species.
3. When priorities 1 and 2 have been met, focus will be on blocks with fewer than 50 species.

If you are interested in atlasing in 2005, you should contact your Regional Coordinator to be assigned a block near you that fits these criteria. If there none available, we encourage you to (a) survey specifically for owls and/or wetland species, and/or (b) submit only new records and upgrades. Please use the Casual Observation Form where appropriate, available online or from your Regional Coordinator.



## Atlas Musings by Tom Salo, Region 4 Co-coordinator

I'm constantly learning about bird behavior and thought that my fellow atlasers would enjoy reading about some of the experiences that I have had this year while doing field work. Yesterday I watched an Eastern Meadowlark with food in its mouth being chased by a fledgling. Not so strange except that the fledgling was a European Starling! As you might imagine, the meadowlark was not cooperating to the fledgling's satisfaction. Last week I was attacked by a Ruffed Grouse after I was kind enough to let her assemble her babies. She acted just like a bantam hen. A couple of days later, I was stunned by the speed and aggressiveness of a large female Northern Goshawk who made it clear that I was too close to her nest. Though this is a common behavior for this species, it is an entirely different experience to witness than to read about, and this particular bird left no question about her message: GO AWAY!

It is well known that early mowing takes a toll on grassland nesters. Some species undoubtedly benefit from the carnage, however, as illustrated by a story told to me by a farmer in East Guilford. The farmer reported that he had inadvertently hit and killed a resting fawn when he mowed his field near the Unadilla River. The following day an adult Bald Eagle was on the ground where the fawn had been killed. A doe kept trying to approach the spot but the eagle wouldn't tolerate it. It chased the doe away several times by aggressively flying towards it.

When I'm atlasing, I like to ask people what birds they have seen. Some can identify a turkey and not much more. Others are quite helpful. I tried to help an old couple who live near Oxford with an identification. They described a "very large brown hawk" that made a pass at their little dust mop dog. It had come quite close - within a few feet - with the owners right there in the yard. The best description I could get was the size and color of a Turkey Vulture but with the head and feet of a hawk. They made a point of saying there were two of these birds together. The couple lives about a mile from the Chenango River and I'm wondering if they saw an immature Bald Eagle. Certainly the dog was small enough to be eagle prey, and it seems uncharacteristic for a vulture to attack a small dust mop dog.

## The Philadelphia Story

by Pat & John Thaxton

As we made the odyssey from hyper-enthusiastic beginners who got hold of a field guide and glibly announced that the Long Island beaches were overrun with Glaucous gulls eating french fries to fairly experienced birders who do things like lead successful field trips in search of Bicknell's Thrush, we have encountered, as we imagine every birder has, a series of *birds noirs*, aka birds noire. You know the type: the elusive, almost mythical bird you can't see for love or money, never mind that you visit the right habitat at the right time, time after time, and even tag along now and again with a serious expert who sees the species routinely. Fuhgeddaboutit, no matter how heavily research and logistics stack the deck in your favor, you still come in out of the field grousing.

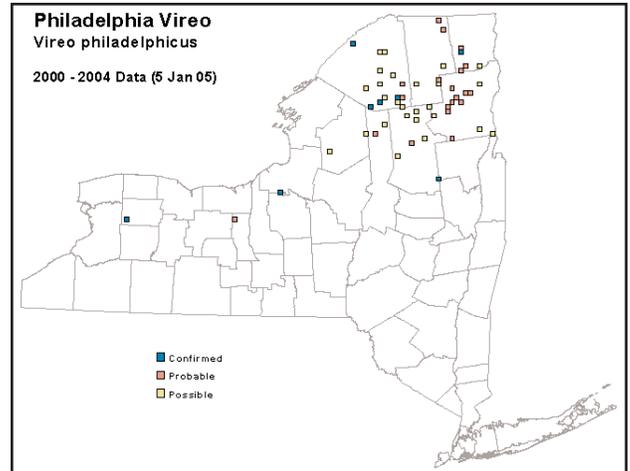
For many years, Seaside Sparrow eluded us completely, even though we lived half the time in a Long Island apartment that overlooked a salt marsh, went to Jamaica Bay extremely often and frequently to Cape May and Brig. We just didn't get it. We listened to tapes of the bird so intensely that we confused its calls with those of phlegmatic cicadas, started scanning the trees bordering marshes just in case. Through a spotting scope we hallucinated green eyebrows on Song Sparrows wiggling phantasmagorically in heat waves, only to see them sing loud enough to drown out the sound of yet another mosquito. We finally went kayaking just north of Brig and had twenty Seaside Sparrows in half an hour. Then we started getting them at Jamaica Bay, Brig and near Cape May. Sometimes seeing a new bird for the first time is like hearing a new word for the first time—you start experiencing it regularly. Sometimes.

Several other species have proved maddeningly elusive for years (Yellow Rail, Connecticut Warbler, Black-backed Woodpecker), but Le bird noire, which virtually drained us of brotherly love for a similar species, was Philadelphia Vireo. We didn't even really have the bird on our radar until a chance encounter with an expert birder, and the advent of Atlas 2000, embarrassed us into adopting a new beast. It started innocently enough, at the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch in Greenwich, Connecticut. On a particularly slow day, we recognized, with our ears only, Tom Burke, a current member of the New York State Avian Records Committee and, for the past twenty years, the voice of the New York City Rare Bird Alert. We introduced ourselves, talked birds for awhile and mentioned that we have a house in the Adirondack Mountains, where we frequently bird. Tom's eyes opened wide with boyish wonder and excitement, his eyebrows rising so high they all but somersaulted backwards over his head, as he asked, "Do you ever see Philly Vee?" Though we gloated a nanosecond for instantly understanding Tom's insider birding term, we felt profoundly deflated as we replied, lugubriously, "No, we never see Philly Vee."

A few years later we saw one in Central Park, during spring migration, thirty feet away in perfect sunlight, taking a bath in the Ramble, and when Mike Peterson asked us to atlas some blocks in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks, we saw where he and other observers had seen them during the last atlas-in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks. Oh well.

If in our first four years of atlasing we have done a great disservice to the Atlas 2000 project, it has been to squander enormous chunks of birding time locating Philly Vees that transmogrified, soon as we finally saw them, into Red-eyed Vireos; and boy, oh boy, have we seen lots of Red-eyes. We spent an hour and a half trying to spot a Philly Vee, only to observe, precisely at the moment we decided to abandon the quest, a Red-eyed revealed when a sudden gust of wind lifted up a small branch of Red maple leaves and uncovered the bird, exactly where we thought it was hiding.

Some people told us the song of Philly Vee is higher and sweeter and slower than Red-eyed Vireo, others told us it was more musical and euphonious, others still counseled that it was all in the length and pitch of the song. Yadayadayada. We compared tapes of the two songs, experienced aural bankruptcy and even descended to wasting time chasing Blue-headed Vireos. We all but gave up, rehearsed continually how many other cool birds we found in our Atlas blocks, how many birds we got for other atlasers and



how many other well-meaning souls have been undone by birds noire.

So we led a group of eight on a bird walk in one of our atlasing blocks, 5989B, the goal being to get them some boreal species, in particular Blackpoll Warbler, Boreal Chickadee and, the fancy guy, Bicknell's Thrush. Turns out the only boreal species we got visually was Bicknell's, on the summit of Hurricane Mountain, but on the way up, as we wondered at a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (we scanned the scanned the snag tops quickly for Seaside Sparrows) carrying nesting materials close to the ground in a marsh at an elevation of 2500 feet, the only other experienced birder in the group signaled us to come over.

She was seventy feet or so up the trail, beyond the marsh, leaning back, looking up at a steep angle into a white birch, and we immediately realized she was on what sounded like a vireo. "It's a Red-eyed," one of us whispered, "No, I think it's a Blue-headed," the other said. We stood slightly behind her and looked where she was looking. In a heartbeat we both got on a Philly Vee.

"It's awfully yellow for a Blue-Headed or a Red-eyed." the woman said, not taking her eyes from her binoculars, "This is a vireo, no?"

"You b**I**te!" we said.

## Soliciting Photos

We would like to include photos in the Atlas publication that illustrate the following topics:

- \* people participating in any aspect of atlasing: in the field, doing paperwork, having fun
- \* breeding evidence: display, nests, young
- \* unusual observations made while atlasing
- \* NY habitats and landscapes
- \* bird photos

Please submit your photos electronically to Kevin McGowan at [kjm2@cornell.edu](mailto:kjm2@cornell.edu). Include the photographer's name, phone number, the date the photo was taken, and the county and town where the photo was taken.



Bard Prentiss (Region 3) being observed by a Black-capped Chickadee

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