



Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Group of the Atlantic Chapter

Fall 2021 | Vol. 53 | Issue 3

This newsletter will be posted to our website along with all previous newsletters.

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Because of differences in Email programs, the links above and back to top" links below may not work.

Mid-Hudson Group Member Survey

We need your help. Your Executive Committee wants your opinion on what we are doing well and how we can improve our Mid-Hudson Group. We have created a brief online survey that should only take a few minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for participating.

[Take the Survey](#)

National Drive Electric Week: Sept. 25th - Oct. 3rd

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are key to combating climate change and weaning us off fossil fuels. A key inhibitor for purchasing an EV, is often concern about charging the EV during road trips, and when you are away from home. The LaGrange CAC, Tops Friendly Market and Sierra Club Mid-Hudson group are hosting an event to dispel the myth that you cannot go on long distance trips in your EV.

Where: Tops Friendly Market, 16 John J Wagner Way, Lagrangeville, NY 12540

When: Saturday, October 2nd, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

[Visit the Mid-Hudson Group website to learn more about our event.](#)

[If you cannot come to our event, use this link to find an event near you.](#)

[The first Mid-Hudson Group Online Auction is coming this Fall.](#)

also

[Visit our Mid-Hudson Group eBay page.](#)

Chair's Corner by *Lalita Malik*

Change: We need to accelerate the rate of change, we need to combat Climate change and to leave a better world for the next generation. The key changes we need to make are: stop destroying our environment and stop pollution. The Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group Executive Committee is focused on both issues. Sometimes it is daunting. We take one step forward and struggle to stay ahead while forces of development and the fossil fuel industry keep the same fights alive. The good news: we are winning the battle, one step at a time.

In the last newsletter we had reported that our Conservation Committee has partnered with other organizations to block the building of a Steel and Concrete plant at the edge of the Bluestone Wild Forest. The good news: the Town of Kingston Planning Board issued a Positive Declaration that the developer of the concrete and steel factory must file an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and undergo a comprehensive review of its possible adverse impacts as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). This is an important win, but the battle is not over. Check out Marie's article for an update on our role in making this happen and the next step.

The energy of the future is electricity. In the past, we used coal, gas and oil to generate electricity. All those fossil fuels release energy that is trapped in the ground, creating global warming. In support of the fossil fuel industry there are proposals to continue using fossil fuels in different forms. Nivo's article on hydrogen is illuminating. Danskammer is proposing using electricity to generate hydrogen, which in turn will generate electricity. A suggestion is to use Carbon Sequestering to capture CO2 produced by generating hydrogen and then bury it. An easier solution is to just leave the fossil fuels in the ground.

The battle to stop Danskammer is ongoing. Our Conservation Chair, Nancy Severns, discusses the approval process in NYS. It is time consuming and expensive. There is still time for you to get involved and make your voice heard. There will be new virtual hearings at end of September.

Moving oil requires electricity. Bob Heinemann's article discusses electric pumps and PIGS to keep the oil moving through the Alaska pipelines. As Bob points out, we do not need any more pipelines, but the industry keeps fighting for them and we keep fighting back.

We live in a beautiful area with plenty of opportunities to explore and enjoy it. Sarah has found a way to commune with nature and the birds. Check out her article.

Our progress towards clean, renewable energy presents new challenges. New solar and wind projects must use land and we will need high-capacity transmission lines to bring electricity from upstate to downstate where it will be needed. Fear not, Sierra Club has developed tools to assess large scale renewables projects. If you know of a project that we should assess, please contact us and we will work with you to evaluate the project.

Change: We all must make changes in our transition to clean energy and wean ourselves away from fossil fuels. This means making your next car an Electric Vehicle (EV), the next hot water heater a heat pump hot water heater and the next furnace an air source or ground source heat pump. To make a change from old fossil fuel appliances to energy efficient, green solution, one must be proactive. Start your research now. The solution for your house will depend on the house site, design, ductwork, landscaping, and other factors. For example, if the house is not ducted, the solution may be multiple heat pumps vs. a central heat pump. Or adding ducts. Either way explore your options now.

There are programs and rebates available from [NYSERDA](#), and [Central Hudson](#). These programs include energy audits,

information on reducing energy use, rebates and incentives for switching to green energy solutions, and approved contractors who participate in the programs.

If you wait until your furnace dies in the middle of winter, or your hot water heater conks out, you will end up replacing your existing system with a similar system, locking yourself into another 20 plus years of fossil fuel dependency.

By switching to green energy you will get rid of oil bills and save money. A heat pump hot water heater uses very little electricity. A heat pump (air source or ground source), will have the added benefit of providing air conditioning. With hot, humid summers on the rise, air conditioning is very welcome.

I switched to a heat pump hot water heater eight years ago and swapped out my oil furnace two years ago. I reclaimed the space in my garage that was used by the oil tank, and do not have to negotiate oil prices every season. I found that my existing fuel supplier and technician who serviced my furnace and hot water heater did not know about green energy solutions. I used the NYSERDA and Central Hudson web sites to find contractors to provide green solutions.

Change: The time to act is now.

Switching to an EV is the easiest change to make. Often the reluctance to purchase an EV is because of concerns about the EV charging infrastructure. You can learn more about EVs and charging your EV on the road during the upcoming **National Drive Electric Week - September 25 to October 3**. There are hundreds of events all over the country presented by enthusiastic EV owners who will share their knowledge and experience with you. The Mid-Hudson Group has organized an event in LaGrangeville, just off the Taconic State Parkway. Nivo and I will demo our cars, a Bolt and a Volt and our experiences with them. The event will be at a bank of chargers at Tops Market so we can demonstrate how to charge your car on the road using apps on your phone.

I will share my experiences of the trip I made to Lechworth State Park this summer and the planning process for a trip to Pennsylvania to hike sections of the AT. Pennsylvania does not have the EV infrastructure that New York has, so planning a trip to Pennsylvania is more involved. If you are EV owner, bring your car and share your experiences. To sign up, see the announcement in the box above. Or just come and meet us.

How is your Executive Committee doing? Are we providing information and services you want/expect? We have developed a short survey to collect your thoughts. Please take some time to give us your feedback. Thank you.

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Conservation Corner

Mid-Hudson Group Conservation Committee

by Nancy Severns

The Conservation Committee held its meeting on August 19, 2021. Several of the projects that we monitor are in some form of environmental review or legal proceeding. We will provide an overview of one of those processes, Article 10, in this article. Article 10 is a statewide process but we will also use here specific information about Danskammer since they are an applicant. This material is based upon information available on the Danskammer Energy website (danskammerenergy.com) and the Department of Public Service document search ([NYS DPS-DMM: Matter Master](#))



Danskammer (Newburgh, NY) - The repowering of Danskammer is subject to approval by the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (the Board) under Article 10 of the Public Service Law.

The application by Danskammer is Matter No. 18-01253 and case No. 18-F-0325 with the New York State (NYS) Department of Public Service. It is titled “Application of Danskammer Energy, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article 10 for Approval to Repower its Danskammer Generating Station Site Located in the Town of Newburgh, Orange County”.

Any applicant who wishes to enter the Article 10 process must submit the following:

1. A Public Involvement Program (PIP) plan.
2. Preliminary Scoping Statement (includes a description of environmental and health impacts that might result from the project.) Danskammer Energy then conducts numerous studies about the project, including wetland delineation, traffic counts and analysis, noise monitoring and modeling, cultural resource consultations, visual simulations and analysis, air emission modeling and economic modeling.
3. A formal Article 10 application will provide all details about the project, including community benefits and impacts.
4. Within 60 days of submittal of the formal Article 10 application, the Siting Board determines whether the application is complete and sets the public hearing date.

Siting Board

The Board includes the chair of the Public Service Commission, the commissioner of Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH), the chair of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development and two local community members.

Public Hearings

The Siting Board appoints Presiding Examiners to oversee the public hearing process. The applicant and intervenors can cross-examine witnesses on their expert testimony about the project. The Presiding Examiners make a recommendation to the Siting Board. The hearing process must be completed within 1 year from the date that the application is considered compliant with Article 10 regulations.

Intervenor and Intervenor Funding

As part of the Article 10 process, applicants are required to provide funds to be used to defray certain expenses incurred by municipal and local parties when intervening and participating at several stages in an Article 10 proceeding. These funds are known as “intervenor funds” and are collected by fees assessed on the applicant by the Siting Board. Only municipal and local parties are eligible for these funds.

More Information on the Danskammer Article 10 Application

The Department of Public Service Document site includes a Preliminary Statement of Issues for Litigation filed by Orange RAPP (Residents against Pilgrim Pipelines) and Sierra Club advising that the Examiners should conduct their investigation consistent with the goals of the NY State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The CLCPA requires 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and zero emissions electricity by 2040.

Mid-Hudson Sierra Club Committee

The Conservation committee meets every other month on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Our members provide updates on five topics (Route 17 Expansion, Bluestone Wild Forest, Danskammer, Wheaton Park, and Education).

Our next meeting is October 21st at 6:30 pm and will be held via Zoom. We currently need a point person for the Danskammer project. If you'd like to join the meeting or be the point person for Danskammer on the committee, send an email to Nancy via midhudsonsierragroup@twc.com.

Update:

Bluestone Wild Forest

By Marie Caruso

A Victory for the Bluestone Wild Forest

The June 21 WebEx public hearing on the 850 Route 28 project attracted about 70 speakers, all but two of whom were opposed to the project. At its next meeting, on July 19, the Town of Kingston Planning Board issued a Positive Declaration that the developer of the concrete and steel factory proposed for 850 Route 28 must file an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and undergo a comprehensive review of its possible adverse impacts as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

The Mid-Hudson Group Sierra Club worked for over two years with Catskill Mountainkeeper, the Woodstock Land Conservancy, the Friends of Bluestone Wild Forest, and other groups to achieve this result, after the Planning Board had initially given a green light to this project, which will involve blasting, rock crushing, and heavy truck traffic in the midst of the Bluestone Wild Forest.

The Sierra Club's involvement consisted of personal advocacy, letter writing, attending meetings, helping with expenses, and funding a legal study on the importance of considering, under SEQRA, how a particular project may affect the character of a community. We believe this [Community Character Study](#) introduced at the June 21 public hearing, along with several other studies, had a major influence on the Planning Board's decision to issue a Positive Declaration. And we are grateful to all who spoke out in opposition to this project.

The developer reportedly has committed to submitting an EIS, so the fight is not yet over. At this point, we await the developer's submission of a scoping document which will outline the issues to be covered in an EIS. The Friends of Bluestone Wild Forest, which meet twice monthly via Zoom, have already started studying how best to respond to this document, under the direction of Catskill Mountainkeeper's Kathy Nolan. For more information on the issue, visit saveonteoralake.org.

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Energy Corner by *Nivo Rovedo*

Hydrogen for Our Future? Don't Buy It

Most likely you have started hearing more and more talk about using hydrogen in the near future as a clean, renewable replacement for the fracked gas that many currently use for cooking and heating, as well as fueling power plants. Often referred to by the euphemism "natural" gas, to make it sound more acceptable, the fossil fuel is mostly methane.

Now the fossil fuel industry companies are seeing hydrogen as a way to stay in business after all the climate damage their products have wreaked on our planet. They are promoting hydrogen as a reliable, next-generation fuel to be used to power cars, heat homes and burn in power plants. Just as the oil industry has used plastic production as a way to continue profitability, touting "recyclability" and creating and promoting the coded recycle labels on plastic items to prove it (although the vast majority of plastic is NOT recycled), the extractors of fossil fuels now advertise hydrogen as their "benign" product for the future.

As an example, the developers pushing the augmentation of the Danskammer gas-fired power plant in Newburgh (so that it would operate 24/7 on gas, rather than its current state as a peaker plant that runs very infrequently) say that their polluting would be switching to "green" hydrogen in the future, so it may meet the goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions as outlined in the NYS law called the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, CLCPA. Hydrogen is used as justification for continuing to build gas infrastructure such as pipelines: pipes that carry natural gas could in the future carry a cleaner blend of

natural gas and hydrogen, the industry claims. But when one examines the current facts on hydrogen combustion as an energy source, it is immediately apparent that hydrogen will not solve any problems in the time frame needed to prevent the worst of the climate catastrophe.

A recent article in *The New York Times* on August 12, 2021 entitled “For Many, Hydrogen Is the Fuel of the Future - New Research Raises Doubts” written by Hiroko Tabuchi, reports on a new peer-reviewed study on the climate effects of hydrogen. In it, she quotes Robert W. Howarth, a biogeochemist and ecosystem scientist at Cornell and the study’s lead author: “To call it a zero-emissions fuel is totally wrong. What we found is that it’s not even a low-emissions fuel, either.”

Most hydrogen now in use industrially comes from methane (hence, one reason for the fossil fuel companies' interest). The author writes, “Most hydrogen used today is extracted from natural gas in a process that requires a lot of energy and emits vast amounts of carbon dioxide. Producing natural gas also releases methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas.” The process to produce this hydrogen from natural gas involves an energy-intensive and polluting method called the steam reforming process which uses steam, high heat and pressure to break down the methane into hydrogen and carbon dioxide. This is termed “grey” hydrogen.

There have been proposals to capture the CO₂ from this process and store it underground (called “carbon capture”). In this scheme, the hydrogen produced is called “blue” hydrogen. But carbon capture is unproven as a viable technology; there are pilot programs attempting to demonstrate its viability, but it is unlikely to be useful at the scale needed within the time window remaining to minimize the ecological disaster. Moreover, as the journalist writes, “...even that fuel still emits more across its entire supply chain than simply burning natural gas, according to the paper, published [August 5, 2021] in the *Energy Science & Engineering* journal by researchers from Cornell and Stanford Universities.” The researchers concluded this by accounting for both carbon dioxide emissions and the methane leakage from wells and other equipment in natural gas production (assuming a realistic leakage of 3.5%), as well as the natural gas required to power the carbon capture technology. The result: “...the greenhouse gas footprint of blue hydrogen was more than 20 percent greater than burning natural gas or coal for heat.” So much for that idea.

Then there is so-called “green” hydrogen, in which water is subjected to electrolysis to produce the gas: an electric current is used to separate the hydrogen from the oxygen and the electricity comes from renewable sources. This eliminates the fossil fuel, the methane leaks, and the other green house gas emissions. One idea put forward is that when more renewable electricity is being generated by wind and solar than is immediately needed, rather than turn off the generation, apply it to creating hydrogen via electrolysis. This is a form of energy storage, as the hydrogen can be used later on.

Potentially, hydrogen could be used in hard-to-electrify sectors such as heavy semi-tractor trailers which would require very large batteries or forklifts which need quick charges, that could use the hydrogen in fuel cell technology to avoid polluting emissions. But there is concern that focusing on using renewables to manufacture hydrogen would be wasting renewable energy that could be used for electrification of our economy, given the inefficiency of electrolysis.

Logistics with hydrogen are difficult as well. Hydrogen is very hard to compress, unlike natural gas. Transportation of hydrogen is also difficult due to the ease with which hydrogen leaks, and the embrittlement it causes of pipeline metals and container trucks for its transport. In addition, combusting hydrogen emits nitrous oxide, an air pollutant.

However, investment in hydrogen is on-going. The latest bipartisan infrastructure package has \$8 billion for creating regional hydrogen hubs, On Long Island, the NY Power Authority is investing \$8.5M in an experiment to put up to 30% green hydrogen (formed by electrolysis using Canadian hydropower) in a mix with fracked gas to power an existing gas-fired power plant, starting this autumn. The plan is to start at 5% and ramp up to 30%, monitoring nitrous oxide and carbon emissions. On July 5, 2021, Shell Oil announced that it intends to invest heavily in green hydrogen in the United States.

Your Atlantic Chapter has been scrutinizing these developments and staying informed on the topic. There have been many discussions on this topic at the Chapter Energy Committee's virtual meetings. We are very skeptical of this proposed role for hydrogen as a future fuel, and currently do not see this as a pathway to a clean energy future. The Union of Concerned Scientists has argued against devoting resources to green hydrogen as the supply is too constrained for the foreseeable future. A senior energy policy analyst at Food & Water Watch, said “... this is a fossil fuel subsidy with Congress acting like they’re doing something on climate, while propping up the next chapter of the fossil fuel industry.”

So think twice before buying into the hydrogen pitch.

Is there a particular energy topic that you would like to hear about in the Mid-Hudson Sierra Club newsletter? Send an email to midhudsonsierra@twc.com.

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Pipelines: Heating Up Our Planet by Bob Heinemann

I checked off a bucket list travel wish in July with my first trip to Alaska. The road trip covered more than 1,500 miles including several hundred on gravel roads during my visits to Denali National Park and Wrangell St Elias National Park. The mountain scenery, especially Denali and the Alaska Range, was spectacular. The weather was unseasonably hot for Alaska in July, yet nowhere near as off the charts as that experienced by the American Pacific Northwest or Vancouver and British Columbia, in Canada. The reason: global warming due to human activity. This threat has been staring us in the face for decades despite the climate deniers and those making their fortune off fossil fuels.



While in Alaska I took the time to pass by Pump Station #8 near Fairbanks, one of eleven working pump stations that service the Trans-Alaska Pipeline spanning 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay on the Beaufort Sea to the Valdez Marine Terminal on the Gulf of Alaska. It cost \$8 billion to build—all privately funded. Construction was completed in two years and two months with the first oil moving through it in June, 1977. Sadly, the pipeline crosses three mountain ranges and more than 500 rivers and streams. The pipeline is elevated over most of its length as it runs 250 miles above the Arctic Circle. Hot oil laden pipes on permafrost are not a good combination.

The Need for Pump Stations

Pump stations are necessary to keep crude oil moving through the pipe. Most are electrically driven. The pumping units boost internal pipeline pressure and also keep the flow within operating limits. The oil flows at a walking pace of three to eight mph. The flow rate depends on the diameter of the pipe, the pressure needed to transport the oil, the terrain the pipe runs through and the viscosity of the oil. While we often think of oil being transported this way, natural gas pipelines present similar but different challenges. Natural gas must be pressurized into liquids to be moved through pipes.

<Most obvious of all, but always minimized by the oil and gas industry, are the significant risks of spills or breaks in the line. The industry is most concerned about moving their product consistently and constantly. To do this requires large pieces of movable equipment called pipeline cleaning pigs, or PIGS for short. At least they are aptly named for the mess the industry has created on the face of our planet. To get an idea of the size of each PIG that rotor roters the hundreds of miles of Alaska pipe during



servicing periods view the photo shown with this article.

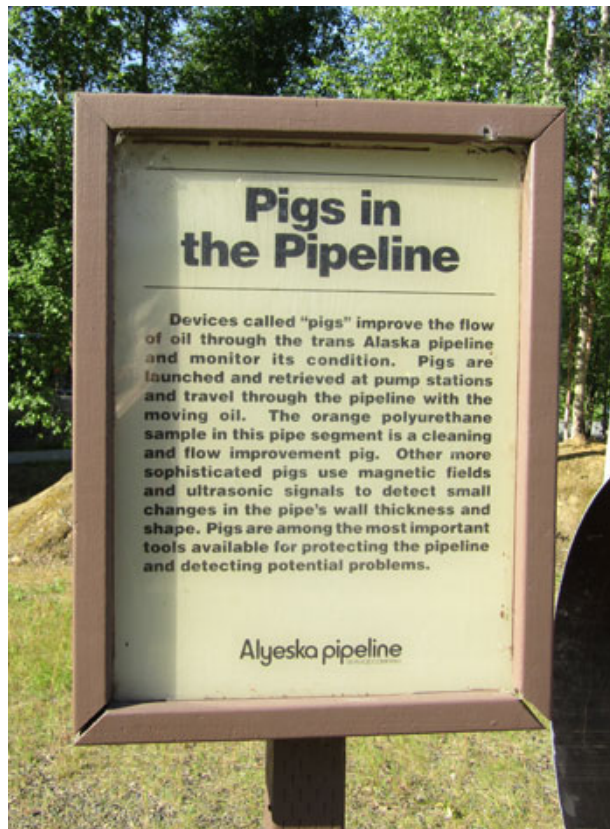
Frequency of Oil and Gas Spills

The fossil fuel industry wants us to believe that spills are rare and that newer pipelines are so sophisticated that spills are almost impossible. But just look at the facts. Since 1986 pipeline accidents have spilled an average of 76,000 barrels per year, which is more than 3 million gallons. This breaks down to an average of 200 barrels spilled every day since then. Oil is the most common spilled substance, followed by natural gas and gasoline. Alaska spills alone with 18 breaches in twenty years total 9,784 barrels of oil along with court ordered or settlement fees of \$52.7 million in damages and costs.

In 2020 alone the total amount of refined petroleum in inland spills within the United States was 1.35 million gallons. Over the twenty year period from 2000 to 2019 the total spill was 14.8 million barrels, or 40,000 gallons per year.

Total Pipelines in the United States

Some facts are so surprising that they seem unreal. We think of the Middle East or Russia as the oil barons of the world. However, the United States has the greatest number of oil pipelines in the world. As of 2020, there are 111 operational pipelines in our country and another 25 under development. The United States also has the most natural gas pipelines in the world. There are a total of 190,000 miles of liquid petroleum pipelines in the United States. In New York, there are seven major pipelines in operation with a total of 47,331 miles of gas distribution lines.



So, is it any wonder that there has been strong opposition to new pipeline projects that run through the Hudson Valley? The Department of Conservation (DEC) in New York recently denied the permit application for the planned Constitution Pipeline deeming the plan inconsistent with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) of 2020.



Global Problems

The recent United Nations study, "IPCC Report: Code Red for Human Driven Global Heating," a comprehensive multi-year review of a massive amount of scientific evidence sends an alarming message that attention finally must be paid to this ever increasing global climate crisis. At this point, even if there is a slowing down of the rise in ocean temperatures to prevent the worst effects of global warming there still will be an increase in massive storms, heat waves, famine and sea level rise. The cumulative result will cause, of necessity, the relocation of tens of millions of people beyond existing borders. The effects at

some significant degree of world-wide suffering will be with us for many decades and even centuries.

Immediate Action Needed

The solution is obvious yet extremely difficult to achieve. Business as usual, short term profits and political differences here and around the globe all work against what should be common sense. There is no time left for decades long transitions from fossil fuels and no time left to build more pipelines that promote more pollution and result in even more dire consequences for all life on the planet. The urgent need is to put every new dollar, every ounce of political will and every possible human effort into a new, green infrastructure. We must get off our addiction to fossil fuels. It is pure folly to build even one more new pipeline anywhere to pump more fossil fuels into vehicles and into our atmosphere. There is simply no more time to delay.

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Outings by Andy Moss

We are seeking individuals who would like to learn more about becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader. This is a very rewarding opportunity to get outside with like-minded people and share your love of the outdoors. For more information send an email to our Group mailbox: midhudsonsierra@twc.com Please include your name, phone number and a good time to call you.

Book Review by Sarah Kennedy

Jennifer Ackerman's *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think*, is a cracker-jack book about the complex life of birds. It is a beautifully written, endlessly fascinating exploration of many aspects of birds' lives. Included are how birds communicate, their sexual behavior, various chick-rearing strategies, and types of play birds engage in with one another and with members of other species.

This book appealed strongly to me, practically leaping off the shelf into my hands. Bird watching is an essential diversion for me during this time of pandemic and existential worry. During Spring Migration, I spent a day in the High Peterskill area of the Shawangunks. Birdsong filled the air. The rising notes of the Prairie Warblers, mixed with the squeaky wheel song of the Black and White Warblers, and the insistent "Teacher, Teacher, TEACHER" of the Ovenbirds were heard for the first mile, then came the dry, quick song of the Worm-eating Warblers. Next came the clear, loud song of the Louisiana Waterthrush as we approached the river, followed by the quick notes of American Redstarts, and insistent songs of Indigo



Buntings. “Trees Trees Murmuring Trees” sounded from on high from the Black-throated Green Warblers, who were mixed in with a group of Black-throated Blue Warblers. Finally, A brilliant orange-throated Blackburnian Warbler showed himself way up on high, just to top off the walk. On such a day, I am taken completely out of myself and all attention is focused on the sounds and sights of the natural world.

This fascination with birds is a life-long passion for me, as evidenced by this drawing, one of many early attempts at artwork I did, which features birds flying through the air:

Many of the bird behaviors Ackerman explores are seen in birds from Australia. There are an astonishing variety of birds there, which exhibit equally various behaviors which are amazing to behold. Ackerman spends time with experts from all over the world, accompanying them in the field and sharing their areas of expertise with the reader.

The stories Ackerman has gathered here are simply mind boggling for the complex and disparate strategies birds use for successful reproduction and survival in a world in which there are many predators. Here is a small sampling: “There are reports of blue jays mimicking not just red-tailed hawks, but raptors of all kinds, causing grackles and other birds to drop their food and flee, whereupon the jays seize the free meal.” “Birds also pirate other animal calls and sounds to fool predators and escape being eaten. . . . When disturbed while incubating, Carolina chickadees will imitate the sound of a copperhead. The northern flicker makes a buzz like a hive of bees to deter predatory squirrels.” One more brilliant example is of a bird I was fascinated by when traveling in the northwest for the first time: “When disturbed in their burrows, burrowing owls of the Americas rattle like an agitated rattlesnake to deter California ground squirrels or other competitors that might steal their burrows.”



In the closing chapter, Ackerman draws conclusions from these studies of birds. She is able to see the big picture drawn from these wonderful and detailed stories. For example, she speaks of how to be both, when she writes, “Birds have taught us that classifying behavior into binary opposites—much as we like to do so—is often a futile exercise. Birds live and act on a spectrum, just as we do, and they prove the power of exceptions, both in defining rules and in breaking them.”



Snow Geese, Cape Torment National Wildlife Area, Saint-Joachim QC

Strong points are made about the climate crisis, showing correlations observed in the effect of our changing climate on birds which also apply to humanity and our struggles. She explains about the staggering losses which have occurred in the bird world over the past half century, and suggests we consider the early warning given by Rachel Carson in her seminal work

Silent Spring.

Despite all the bad news, she also points out evidence of reasons to hold hope, such as the rebounding population of Bald Eagles which we can observe here, in the Hudson Valley. Given the web of life, what we decide to do now matters greatly, not only to our species, but to the birds' world as well.

The [Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club](#) is a local resource for those interested in birds. Please visit their website for further information.

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Letters from our Members

Editor's note: Send us a letter about issues that are important to you—whether local, state or national. Please submit your letter to our Newsletter Editor: Andy Moss, at andy@hvi.net. Our submission schedule is posted at the bottom of our website's [Newsletters](#) page. We will consider letters of up to 250 words. Your letter will be published in the next newsletter upon review and acceptance by the editor. Subjects should focus on Sierra Club areas of interest: conservation, environmental protection, political action, climate change, getting outdoors, etc. Visit the [Sierra Club](#), [Atlantic Chapter](#), or [Mid-Hudson Group](#) website to learn more about where we stand.

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Fundraising by David Friedman

Online Benefit Auction for the Mid-Hudson Group

We are planning to hold an online Mid-Hudson Group Auction sometime in the early Fall. As with our past tag sales we are asking our members to help us by donating items, services or by bidding. In addition, we hope local businesses will donate goods or services. Please join us for this exciting new event by participating in any way you can.

We're looking for great items in excellent condition to put up for auction with the proceeds all benefiting the Mid-Hudson Group. We're seeking your participation to make it a spectacular event.

We are looking for high quality items and services to be put up for bid. Items donated will be seen by thousands of potential bidders. Here are some ideas of what we are looking for:

1. Gift Certificates to local businesses (either your own, or a business that you contact on our behalf). The business will be seen by thousands of potential clients)
2. Products from local businesses or artists
3. Event tickets (Concerts, theater, etc.)
4. Collectible antiques and related goods
5. High quality sporting goods such as boats, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, bicycles, camping equipment, etc.
6. Artwork
7. Cameras and small electronics, watches, pocket knives, etc
8. Gift quality goods
9. Designer goods
10. Time-share week - (or similar getaway opportunities)

We are looking for quality and desirable goods for the auction! Please do not offer goods that are in less than excellent condition.

To make a contribution or for more information contact David Friedman (Fundraising Chair) at: Friedman_David@msn.com or call/text: 845-701-6229.

Visit our Mid-Hudson Group eBay page

Our group now has an eBay page. We feature Sierra Club items and related goods. You can even let us know if you have items you wish to donate to be sold on our page!

[Visit our eBay page today to see what's for sale.](#)

To make a contribution or for more information contact David Friedman (Fundraising Chair) at: Friedman_David@msn.com or call/text: 845-701-6229.

Make A Gift - Make A Difference

Our local group depends on the support of volunteers and the generosity of our membership. The work of the group takes Sierra Club volunteer effort, and of course funds. We hope that you will consider making a gift to the Mid-Hudson group of the Sierra Club. In these turbulent times it's vital that we all do what we can to speak out and work for the protection of our environment and the future of our world. We welcome and appreciate your support, and encourage you to consider providing financial support for our efforts. Our mailing address is at the bottom of this newsletter.

To speak about specific opportunities, or with any questions, please contact David Friedman, Friedman_David@msn.com or our Treasurer Richard Gunn, richard.gunn.sierraclub@gmail.com.

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Contact us:

Email: midhudsonsierra@twc.com

Mail: Mid-Hudson Sierra Club, PO Box 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

You can find the names of our Executive Committee members on our website:

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