

The Overlook



Banner Photo by Ashok Bhatnagar

The Great Egret Excursion

by Bob Ensminger, Field Trip Leader

The Great Egret Excursion was held on September 16th meeting at Cayuga Pool Overlook. Here, participants were treated to views of a pair of Trumpeter Swans and a Black-crowned Night-Heron. After an introductory talk all about Great Egrets, the group carpooled to the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, where we were able to observe about 25 Great Egrets coming to roost. These beautiful birds have increased their numbers dramatically in the great lakes region in recent years. It is always a thrill to see the egrets in flight and hear them interacting as they settle for the evening in a well-protected roost spot. Please consider joining us next year for this unique experience! Don't forget to check our **Iroquois Observations schedule on the Friends of Iroquois Website** for our next exciting outing!

Winter Wren

by Gerry Rising

Early October not only brings beautiful fall colors to New York, but it also brings to our woodlands troops of small birds that are passing through on their southern migration. At this time of year on a forest hike you can often come across one of those mixed flocks. It will often include chickadees, both kinglet species, golden-crowned and ruby-crowned, tufted titmice, white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and an occasional yellow-rumped warbler. Downy and red-bellied woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers are to be seen around the periphery of these flocks. By imitating the call of a screech owl, you can often call in these birds: they come to mob the owl, which has very poor vision in daytime.

Among these birds another species is often missed by bird watchers who are mostly looking up. This small brown bird with a tipped-up tail forages among low branches or on the ground. It is a winter wren.

At this time of year you don't have to exert much effort to separate this species from other wrens. Almost all of the house wrens have already left by the end of September and the Carolina wren is twice the size of the winter wren.

If you visit northern forests in summer, you are often entertained by the beautiful and remarkably loud song of this species. A long series of tinkling notes: it is hard to imagine it coming from this tiny bird that weighs less than a third of an ounce. It is also found then in the Southern Tier.

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Once Morgan Jones pointed out to me a winter wren nest in Allegany State Park. Typical of this species the nest was built about three feet above the ground between the bark and the cambium layer of a tree trunk. The bark had split and left an opening in which the pair of wrens was able to stuff a few twigs to create the home in which they would raise their young

FINWR Board of Directors

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Refuge Manager
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Refuge Contact

www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/
E-mail: Iroquois@fws.gov
Phone: (585) 948-5445



Overlook Newsletter

is provided 4 times per year.
Article submissions for each newsletter are due:

- * *early January (Winter)*
- * *early May (Spring)*
- * *early August (Summer)*
- * *early October (Fall)*

President's Message

I recently had the privilege of attending the Friends Northeast Regional Training in Alexandria, Virginia, where I met many other Friends board members and Refuge Managers from some of the fifty Friends groups in our region. It was inspiring to learn from the many dedicated volunteers who are creating meaningful Friends programs and partnerships, while facing the same challenges as we are here at Iroquois NWR. During the weekend, a variety of speakers and Friends members just like you explained how such partnerships are providing the public access to our refuges in new, creative ways.

We as Friends exist because we know we highly value our federal land and refuge system and want it to endure for future generations to enjoy. We know there is more work to be done to reach people with this message. We will be striving to build on communication between the refuge and both urban and rural communities, made up of hunters, anglers, birders, hikers, botanists and all who appreciate nature and natural experiences. To see how we have bridged this gap, be sure to read the list Ann Fournier has compiled of our accomplishments this year. Also, watch this newsletter for the upcoming steps your Friend Board will take to enhance this communication. We welcome membership suggestions on ways we can further improve on reaching out to a diverse public.

We as a board are extremely appreciative of the many hours each of you has dedicated in volunteerism and in membership support of our organization, while we help the refuge in meeting its mission. Here is that mission, which is well worth rereading. This mission clarifies for me why I am a Friend!

The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Source: <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/>

I sincerely encourage everyone to attend the upcoming **Friends of Iroquois Annual Meeting** at the refuge headquarters on **November 4th at 10:00 AM**. All members can vote during the annual board member elections. The Friends Board will also award the winners of the annual photo contest, which is always an exciting event! As a highlight of the program, our team of dedicated martin enthusiasts will explain the important work being done at the refuge for all cavity nesters. Heather Williams will be our guest speaker. Refuge Manager Tom Roster will provide a briefing on the National Wildlife Refuge System and refreshments will be served. An incredible video of the new Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument will be shown after our adjournment. Don't miss it!

Please visit your refuge soon! The brilliant display of fall color and the influx of migratory wildlife await you!

With kind regards,
Celeste Morien



Calling All Volunteers!

The Flyway Nature Store in the Casey Road Visitor Center is seeking volunteers to keep the doors open to the public. We would welcome any help that could be offered regularly, perhaps once a week for a morning or afternoon. Won't *you* consider helping your Friends of Iroquois provide a friendly face to the public for our well-stocked store? We offer a variety of very nice fleece garments, hats, and nature-themed gifts, which would appeal to the hiker, camper, birder or nature buff in your family.

Thank You to our 2017 Contributors !!!

Double Eagle: Mike&Bonnie Woodward, Peter&JoAnne Jackson.

Bald Eagle: Renee Bush&Bruce McCombe, Chuck&Ann Fourtner, Paul&Sheila Hess, Sandra & Tom Madejski, William&Susan O'Brian, Ruth&Steve Shewan.

Heron: Peter Gold&Athalie Joy, Gordon&Peggy Lamb, Celeste Morien, Peter Verroca.

Bluebird: Kofi Fynn-Aikins, J.Fay&Ruth Cleveland, Don&Jean Felton, Ed Fiorino, Scott&Meaghan Green, Margaret Hoff, Karin Johnson, Morgan L. Jones Jr., Rick Kazmierczak, Ed&Jan Kramer, Allen&Doralee Lackey, Bill&Lela Lathrop, Anthony&Grace Leger, Barbara Meeks, Frank&Sandra Mendel, Michael Noonan, Richard Parker, Deborah Roberts, John&JoAnn Schlegel, Bob&Kay Schmidt, Betty Smith, Peter&Manya Warn, Theodore Weir, Wild Birds Unlimited, Stephen C. Wittkowsky, Carl&Phyllis Zenger.

Otter: Ann Bunch, Bob & Margie Hazen, Dorothy Rapp, Charlie&Sue Slack.

Raccoon: Julie Baker, Chuck Bartlett, Jerry Cataldo, Judy Derry, Ella/Charlie/Rose Fourtner, Ellen Gendreau, Michael & Cheryl Helman, Carol Klinger, Edwin&LuAnne Mileham, Judy Murray, Marcia Nixon, David O'Donnell, Connie Parson, Jim&Pat Sanders, Mark&Jackie Schiffler, Jeffery&Jocelyn Welton, Finger Lakes&WNY Waterfowl Assoc.

Family: Abaya Family, Sue&Hank Beamer, Douglas&Christine Belongnia, Laura Berry, Charles&Paula Bigalow, Dawn&Daniel Borchert, Jean Brundage, Judith&James Bunn, Aaron Chaffee, David&Jeanine Chatt, Chris Choate, Lawrence Clare, Kathleen Contrino, Dale&Rebecca Cummings, Robert&Donna DeLeon, Mike&Krys Elam, Robert Ensminger, Jacqueline Fechner, Wayne&Susan Gall, Kim Goodman, Gail Grigg, Sven Hammer, Carrie Hartz, Robert&Lyn Kiehl, Garner Light, Patricia Martin, Scott Meier, Thomas Roster, Karen Slote, Michael&Jessica Stalker, Suzanne Thaine, Michelle Tow, Brigitte Wagmer-Ott, Richard&Maria Walcsak, Ginny Webber, Robert&Joan Weet, Carol Wells, Henry & Deborah Wright.

Individual: Maxine Barber, Janice Beglinger, Katherine Bilbrough, Henry H. Cook, Mary Culp, Joshua Falbo, Marilyn Feuerstein, Helen Freitag, Owen S. Gray, John Hoesterman, Judith Hoffman, Christopher Hollister, Debi Holt, Nancy Jackson, Gail Johnson, Helen Johnson, Irene Kozma, Karen Lee Lewis, Kathy Owen, Gerry Rising, Beverly Saylet, Gerald Thurn, Louise Tomczak, Bernice Wolak, Susan Wren, Carla Wright.

Friends of Iroquois Wildlife Refuge would like to thank: **The Woodward Family Conservation and Community Fund**, Bernice Wolak, the family of **Michael Crane Sr.** for the generous donations

Support the Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. in 2017 Membership Levels:

Individual	\$15.00	Please send contribution to: Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. 1101 Casey Road Basom, NY 14013
Family	\$25.00	
Raccoon	\$50.00	
Otter/Red Fox	\$75.00	
Bluebird	\$100.00	
Heron	\$200.00	We can use your volunteer time also!!
Bald Eagle	\$500.00	
Double Eagle	\$1,000.00	Contributions are tax deductible



2018
**Friends of Iroquois
National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.**
<http://www.FriendsOfIroquoisNWR.org>

Membership Request/Donation

Mr/Mrs/Ms First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail* _____ **Please include **

Phone # (____) _____

Membership Levels

- Double Eagle \$1,000
- Bald Eagle \$500
- Heron \$200
- Bluebird \$100
- Red Fox \$75
- Raccoon \$50
- Family \$25
- Individual \$15
- Business Sponsor \$50 minimum

Please mail memberships to:

Friends of Iroquois NWR, Inc.
1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013
(585)-948-5445

Make checks payable to: FINWR, Inc.

Please remember FINWR with a bequest in your will.

Gift Membership Request*

Mr/Mrs/Ms First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Membership Level _____

**Gift memberships will include a gift card to recipient on the donor's behalf.*

Volunteering at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

I am interested in volunteering at the refuge (someone will contact you): YES NO
phone and/or e-mail: _____



Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
1101 Casey Road, Basom, NY 14013
Phone: (585) 948-5445 Fax: (585) 948-9538
Website: www.friendsofiroquoisnwr.org

Supporting Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. (FINWR)

- Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (INWR) is visited by an estimated 50,000 people each year. These visitors include hikers, bird watchers, hunters, fishermen, photographers, students of conservation and wildlife and others.
- Donations to FINWR may qualify for matching funds.
- Donations are tax deductible. FINWR is a registered 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. Check with your tax advisor.
- INWR is the only National Wildlife Refuge in Western New York

Projects completed or initiated by Friends of Iroquois NWR:

- Provided camera equipment so that the public and staff can view live Kestrels, bluebirds, tree swallows, purple martins during the breeding and nesting season with no disturbance to the birds.
- Pledged \$24,000 to assist INWR with an educational trailer which will be used for outreach.
- Supporting interns for refuge related projects.
- Swallow Hollow Nature Trail completed and dedicated. FINWR provided partnerships, financing, planning and volunteer hours to complete this \$500,000 project, which is now used for pleasure and educational programs. There is now a Guide-by-Cell opportunity along this trail!
- Provided benches and rehabilitation to Kanyoo Trail so that visitors can view wildlife and nature. Partnered with the Boy Scouts, Iroquois Job Corps, and HSBC for this project. Interpretive signs created and installed.
- FINWR continues to support and new interpretive trail available near the Visitor Center.
- Water control structure purchased and installed on Cayuga sub-impoundment to enhance shore bird habitat and wildlife viewing and supported Ducks Unlimited with the Seneca Pool Restoration.
- Supported the Canisius Ambassadors for Conservation program which over 10 years *introduced 18,803 school children and adults to the N.W. Refuge System*, giving them an understanding of nature, biodiversity and conservation. Canisius students are assisting in updating the Guide-by-Cell project.
- Funded the drilling of a well which monitors ground water levels.
- Supporting educational opportunities for volunteers (American Kestrel Symposium, Regional Training).
- Volunteers generally contribute several thousand hours of service each year.
- FINWR continues to support special events such as the Youth Fishing Derby, the Spring Into Nature Open House, Iroquois Observations program, Youth Waterfowl Orientation Day, Annual Photo Contest, Purple Martin Program, Bluebird Banding, Oak Orchard Audubon Christmas Bird Count, NYS Ornithological Association Conference, roadside trash pickup, and various outreach events
- The Flyway Nature Store provides nature related gifts and books with profits being used to support the projects and mission of the refuge.
- FINWR continues to expand membership and seek donations.



THE OVERLOOK NEWSLETTER

**Friends of Iroquois
National Wildlife Refuge
1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013**



FRIEND'S NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000

**The next Photo Contest deadline is August 31, 2018.
Visit our website for more information.
<http://www.FriendsOfIroquoisNWR.org>**

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and the
Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
announce their **Eighth Annual Amateur**

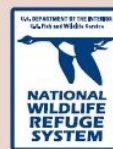


PHOTO CONTEST