

NEW MEMBERS

Beck, Mrs. Jean K., Davis Motel, Schroon Lake, N.Y. 12870
S—Boise, Miss Cheryl M., Granville Hill Rd., Sherburne, N.Y. 13406
Frasier, Ron, R.D. #1, Dillenbeck Rd., Palatine Bridge, N.Y. 13428
Hanes, Miss Frances, 138 Melrose Ave., Utica, N.Y. 13502
Hanzich, Robert E., White E., Glen Spey, N.Y. 12737
S—Kontos, Steven, Box 231, Centereach, L.I., N.Y. 11720
Lawson, Mr. C. S., 2513 Richfield Blvd., Las Vegas, Nev. 89102
McGuinness, Hugh, 22 East 8th St., New York, N.Y. 10003
Murray, Mrs. Arthur, 1 Watson Lane, Setauket, N.Y. 11733
Strain, Robert W., 123 William St. (College), New York, N.Y. 10038
S—Student Membership

NEW YORK STATE WILDLIFE PRESERVES

7. Rogers Environmental Education Center
Outstanding Birding Area in Chenango County, New York

CHERYL M. BOISE

During May of this spring (1974), when migration was at its peak, I had the opportunity to do an extensive amount of birding in central New York State, particularly Chenango and Madison Counties. In my search for good birding locations, I discovered that the Rogers Environmental Education Center (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) is one of the best areas I have ever seen for migrating songbirds, especially warblers.

The Rogers Center, which was a New York State Game Farm until 1966, at which time it was converted to its present status, is located on Route 80 one mile west of the village of Sherburne. It consists of 571 acres of land with a range of habitats represented, including open fields, coniferous, mixed and deciduous woodlands, marshes, swamps and ponds. Centrally located are a picnic area and an interpretive building which houses offices, educational displays, a quite complete library and a gallery with outside microphones and spotting scopes which provide an overlook of a marsh. Four and one half miles of well-marked trails, provisioned with explanatory signs and displays are excellent birding routes. Along these trails also there is a large variety of wild flowers and other native plants, all conducive to interesting botanical study. Maps of the trails are conveniently located.

The total habitat of the Rogers Center seems to be particularly suited to spring migrants. The land borders the Chenango River, a tributary

of the Susquehanna River, and thus attracts birds migrating along this drainage system. While all sectors of the Center have good avian populations, I found two sites to be especially productive. One is the Spruce Ridge Trail, which has an access point from the main parking lot. This trail passes through about six acres of fairly dense spruce and pine plantation, and connects with other trails that cover different habitats. Although small in area, this plantation has a concentration of birds at various times. Large mixed flocks of warblers, including Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Bluewinged, Cape May, Magnolia and Yellowthroats occur here early in May. Other warblers, thrushes and sparrows are also seen here while migrating, but the total resident population of this area is limited.

The second, even more exciting area is the former Adams' property. This 140 acre area is located one mile west of the main parking lot. Turn right onto Williams Road, and right again about 100 yards down Williams Road.

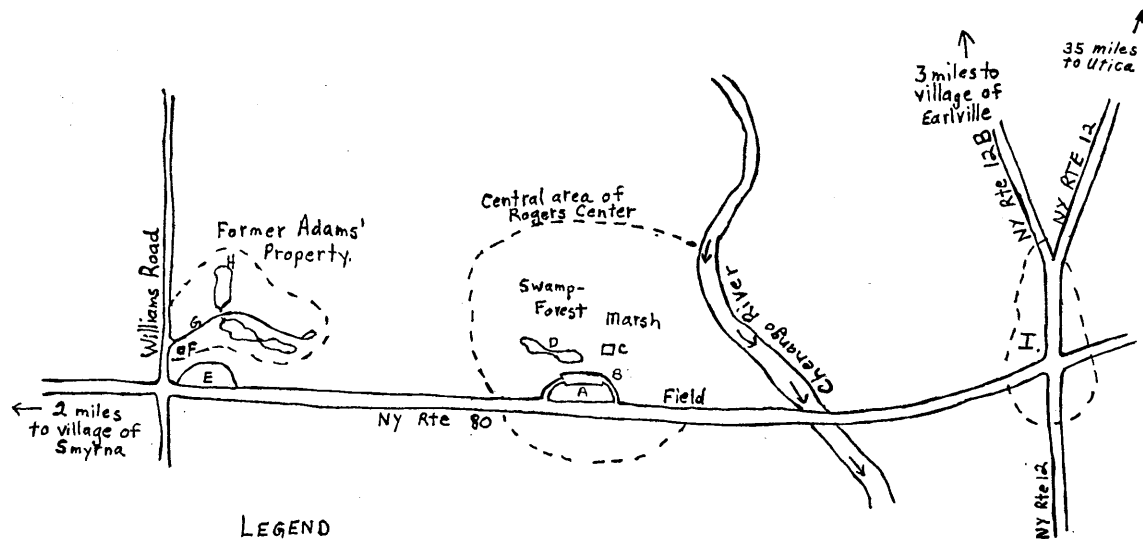
This is a dirt access road used primarily by fishermen who frequent the three ponds located here. The ponds also provide habitat for herons and ducks, and foraging spots for swallows. The dirt roads and marked trails (complete with catwalks over marshy spots) loop through mixed deciduous woods, open fields, and along a stream, ponds and a willow-lined canal. It was in these willows that I discovered a family (one female and two young) of Great Horned Owls. There were also a large number of warblers here, including those mentioned above as well as Black-and-white, Blackburnian, Tennessee, Wilson's, Canada, Northern Waterthrush and American Redstart. Here the resident population is quite large and varied. Besides more common species, I have seen the following here: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Wood, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated, Solitary, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Tree, Bank, Barn and Rough-winged Swallows, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Indigo Bunting.

The variety of species which may be seen at the Rogers Environmental Education Center is due in part to the variety and quality of habitat provided, and in part to the protected status of this environment. These facts coupled with the educational stress at the Center, make the Center an outstanding and rewarding place to visit for all types of nature study, and for birding in particular.

Granville Hill Road, Sherburne, New York 13460

Map for locating Rogers Environmental Education Center

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LEGEND

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Main Parking Lot | E. Cemetery |
| B. Access to Spruce Ridge Trail | F. Storage Bldg. (white) |
| C. Interpretive Bldg. | G. Access Road to Adams' Property |
| D. Ice Pond | H. Fishing Ponds |
| I. Village of Sherburne | |

