

Cedar Glades for Wintering Birds: The importance of Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) glades in Jefferson County has been missed by many ornithologists and ecologists in the past. These areas which dominate much of the so called "scrub lands" of the Lake Ontario Plain of western Jefferson County are very important for wintering and visiting birds such as American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, House Finch, and Purple Finch. Red Cedar berries are an important source of sugars and carbohydrates for birds to survive the winter months. Since many of these areas have a history of use as dairy pasture there is a predominance of wild apple trees or thorn apple spread by the cattle through the years of use. These apple trees

also provide an additional food source for other birds and mammals (Chamberlaine, L. 1993. Utilization of Wild Apples by Birds. *Kingbird* 45:153). Many of these areas are on shallow soils and are underlaid by limestone and in some cases have bare limestone areas with no soil except where detritus has collected in the cracks or holes in the limestone. Some of the better known areas of this type are part of rare ecological communities and are well known to the botanists but relatively unknown to mammalogists and ornithologists. These include the El Dorado Shores Preserve, Limerick Cedars, and Chaumont Barrens all Nature Conservancy properties and the Stony Point area where the New York State, Henderson Shores Unique Area is located. Some of these areas have a White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) component as a part of the plant community. This genotype of White Cedar does not and cannot exist in prolonged standing water as one usually expects to in the white cedar swamp community. They are a distinct variety that grows only on the limestone outcroppings. This species of cedar also provides some additional food for birds and mammals when present. In some of these areas an increasing White-tailed Deer population in the past 25 years is limiting reproduction or even slowly eliminating the White Cedar component while also heavily impacting the Red Cedar as the deer herd increases in size on the Lake Ontario Plain. These areas are also being lost to developments at a fairly high rate since the land is of relatively low value and cheaper to purchase than active farm lands. With the decrease in farming in this area and increase in second home developments, as well as the Fort Drum developments more pressure will be put on these "lower value land" areas on private lands for trailer sites, small businesses and second home developments. It is important that these areas be recognized for their high value to wildlife and that they be preserved and protected as much as possible in the Jefferson County area. Study in other parts of New York State will no doubt show the importance of these areas for birds and other wildlife.

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Golden Eagle Attacks Wild Turkey: On 17 December 1994, while participating in the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count in the Town of Oneonta, Otsego Co., the author was observing with Gerry Cahill and Dianne Benko a flock of 12 Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) walking through an overgrown pasture below a wooded ridge. We spotted an immature Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) circling above the ridge. The eagle began a glide down the face of the ridge, just