

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

August – September – October 2010

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Bird Seed Sale



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon will hold its annual bird seed sale on **Saturday, October 30 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Huntington High School**. We sell high quality bird seed, some specially blended for the Long

Island area. Order forms should arrive in your mailbox in September, since seed must be ordered in advance. If you don't get a form by then, contact Sharon Brody (516-433-5590). You and your feathered friends will love the seed and the profits support help to support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter.

Alice Del Bosco Receives Prestigious Award

by Maria Kelly

Al Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York, said "Public recognition of Alice's contributions to the Audubon cause is both fitting and long overdue" when Alice Del Bosco was awarded the **Norman I. Stotz Award for Extraordinary Volunteer Service** at the Spring Audubon New York Council meeting, March 20th at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, NY. When the Audubon New York Office first opened in 1996, Alice served on the Executive Committee of the Audubon Council and on its Board from 1996 to 2008. She served as their treasurer from 1990 to 1993, was chair of the Education committee in 2000-2001 guiding the implementation of Audubon's state-wide education plan, and was Secretary in 2006. She represented Huntington Audubon at the State Council meetings throughout the 1990's and early 2000's. Alice was also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and served as HAS representative to that board for over 15 years. As President of Huntington Audubon from 1979-1981 and again from 1995-1997, she led the chapter's environmental efforts regarding pesticides, waste water management, nature awareness, Listen to the Sound campaign, and has actively supported almost all committees of Huntington Audubon. A most active and

valued member of Huntington Audubon (now HOBAS) for over 40 years, Al's words "fitting and long overdue" are true indeed. Congratulations, Alice and many thanks!



Alice with the Council Board of Directors President, John Hannan, accepting her award.

Chapter Elections

Election of officers and board of directors takes place annually at our June membership meeting. The officers elected for a one-year term are: President - Stella Miller, First Vice President - Blair Broughton, Second Vice President - vacant, Secretary - Ginger Mahoney, Treasurer - Petie Szabo. Elected for a three-year term to the Board of Directors are: Sharon Brody, Simon Da Ros, Catherine Fitts, Stella Miller, and Vinnie Schiappa.



To get the latest news, schedule additions and changes. Go to www.hobaudon.org.

Membership Meetings

Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

September 8, 2010:

On Thin Ice: The Changing World of the Polar Bear with Richard Ellis

October 13, 2010:

Birds of the Ancient and Modern Maya with Rob Fergus, PhD

See page 6 for details.

News from the President

by Stella Miller



Hello all! I hope you all are having a great summer.

I have some good news concerning our efforts on the methane flare/landfill/raptor conflict. In May I was a guest speaker at the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations' Spring Conference and Trade Show in Bolton Landing, NY, participating in a speaker's panel on a variety of landfill related issues. A representative from the Solid Waste Association of America, Marcus Scrimgeour, was my co-presenter at the event. The program was very well received and out of the three guest speakers on the panel, the bulk of the questions were directed at me, proving that there is an interest and concern about this issue. Unfortunately, SWANA had rescinded their invitation for me to speak at the national conference, which indicates there is still work to be done in getting this issue taken seriously. Hopefully SWANA will stop dragging their feet and be more willing to engage with us in a meaningful way. The fact that they sent a co-presenter to the NY conference gives me hope that this will happen.

Some more good news: I am proud to announce that in May, Brent Bomkamp, Brendan Fogarty, and Vinny Pellegrino, of the Youth Outreach Committee were the recipients of a community service award, bestowed upon them by the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon NY for their past efforts on behalf of the youth committee. Having mentored these boys since 2008, I think I cried more than their own mothers did! (*See article on page 3.*)

Speaking of the Youth Outreach committee, our kestrel nest boxes went up at the Matheson Preserve in Lloyd Neck, with the help of The Nature Conservancy. Unfortunately we did not have any kestrel action this year, but are hopeful that next year things will change.

While on the topic of nature preserves, HOBAS volunteers took part in a garlic mustard pull in Shu Swamp in May, partnering with the North Shore Land Alliance. We also participated, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of the Bay, in a water chestnut pull at Mill Pond in Oyster Bay on June 19, followed the next day by a joint effort with the USFWS to clean up the beach at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge. We continue to clean up Pulaski Road each month as part of Suffolk County's Adopt-a-Highway program and I will also be assisting the FWS with monitoring Piping Plover and Least Tern colonies. In fact, just the day before writing this, I was thrilled to discover a nest of four Piping Plover eggs while out surveying. I hope to see HOBAS partner more with the FWS to help keep our refuges beautiful and invasive species free.

The mission of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is to increase community awareness about the environment and to encourage others to enjoy and protect birds and other wildlife in their natural habitats.



killdeer

is the newsletter of the

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

P.O. Box 735

Huntington, NY 11743-0735

a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is published five times a year.

Officers

President	Stella Miller	516-682-5977
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	Charlotte Miska	516-922-9710

Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert	212-979-3070
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For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	631-423-0982
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You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.hobaudubon.org.

E-mail us at has@huntingtonaudubon.org.

News from the President (Continued)

Perhaps the biggest issue we are now tackling is the effort to protect Plum Island from being developed. Please see our website for information on this issue as well as an in-depth article on page 5. On our website you can link to the online petition where you can read the case statement for preserving the island in its entirety, check out the Facebook page, and contribute to our efforts. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition hopes to reverse the sale of this beautiful island and convert it into a National Wildlife Refuge. Kudos to John Turner for his intense focus and hard work on this issue! Also, keep an eye out for the Preserve Plum Island website, which will be up and running shortly (www.preserveplumisland.org).

As you can see, we have been busy! If you are interested in becoming more involved and assisting us in any way, please contact me (trickiwoo63@yahoo.com). There has never been a better, or busier, time for you to contribute in an active, involved way.

TRS Gala

by Pat Aitken

The 2010 Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Legacy of Conservation Gala was held on May 15 at the Hay Barn in Planting Fields. The honorees were Edward Mohlenhoff and three HOBAS Youth Outreach Committee members Brent Bomkamp, Brendan Fogarty, and Vincent Pelligrino. Stella Miller, HOBAS board president, has mentored these young men, and encouraged their interest in becoming stewards of the environment. They were introduced by HOBAS board member Pat Aitken, who spoke about their activities in leading trips, writing blogs, working with cub scouts, and their achievements in school and other interests. She praised them for the leadership and their interest in and compassion for the environment. They were presented with proclamations from New York State Senator Carl Marcellino, Legislator Judy Jacobs, and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, and were each given a pair of binoculars.

Edward Mohlenhoff has been a staunch supporter of the TR Audubon Sanctuary since his childhood. His grandmother's home was adjacent to the sanctuary, and he spoke movingly of how much the Sanctuary meant to him as a child, and how proud he is of the education programs that the sanctuary offers to children now. Ed has taken a leadership role as an advisor, board member, and president, and as a very effective fundraiser for the Sanctuary. He has raised over \$1 million in 10 years.

The TR Gala was the first event to be held in the newly restored Hay Barn. It is a beautiful venue for an event. Guests were greeted by TR staff and volunteers. Many of the birds used in the education programs were there that evening to provide an opportunity for further outreach and

education to any guests who may not have been familiar with the sanctuary programs. It seemed like the falcon held by Anne Winters was the hit of the evening. Guests had been asked to attend in Victorian clothing, and many complied. There was quite an interesting assortment of ladies' hats, gowns, and men's top hats on display.

Laura Savini of Channel 21 was the guest emcee for the evening. She had been given a tour of the Sanctuary by Ralph Fumante, TRS board president, who spoke to her about the planned aviaries for the Sanctuary. She spoke of her enthusiasm for the programs offered by the Sanctuary and her wish to help support them. Al Caccese, Audubon New York President, led the live auction. There were many exciting prizes, including a two-week stay in Brittany, a trip to the Galapagos, a fall planting of 1,000 bulbs, a week in the Florida Keys, and a trip to Peru.

The event committee, led by Jane Greenleaf, Caroline Dubois, and Perri Wenz, did an outstanding job at putting together a lovely evening that was enjoyed by all. It was also very successful as a fundraiser, with over \$130,000 raised to help the Sanctuary achieve its mission.



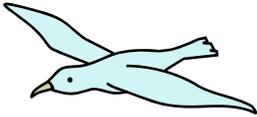
L-R: Vinny Pellegrino, Brent Bomkamp, and Brendon Fogarty accepting their award. (Photo by Jason Pietzak.)

Garage Sale Success!

There were bargains for everyone at the 5th Annual HOBAS Garage Sale, held on June 12th in Cathy Fitts' backyard. Thank you to all who took the time to donate items and all who stopped by to shop. Your support is greatly appreciated. The sale was another success and raised \$562.15 for the chapter. Special thanks to the following HOBAS members for donating time in collecting and pricing items, setting up, cleaning up, and working the day of the sale: Sharon Brody, Ann Brosnan, Blair Broughton, Simone Da Ros, Alice Del Bosco, Cathy Fitts, Maria Kelly, Ginger Mahoney, Charlotte Miska, Rosemarie Papayanopoulos, and Vinnie Schiappa.

Weekend at Great Gull Island

by Beth and Jerry Platt



What a weekend! We couldn't say no when our good friend Loretta invited us to join her and other volunteers on Great Gull Island out in the middle of Long Island Sound for Memorial Day weekend. No running water, no electric, and sleep in an old army barracks. In one word - primitive. And she promised lots of birds. It sounded perfect.

The Great Gull Island Project is headed by Helen Hays who is an ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History. She has been conducting this long-term study on the life history of Common Terns for more than 30 years. Volunteers have the unusual opportunity to participate in a scientific research project with like-minded people and get dirty doing real field work.

Getting to Great Gull Island from Long Island was not easy. We took the Orient Ferry to New London, drove to Niantic and then re-crossed Long Island Sound on Captain John's launch to arrive at Great Gull Island. It was a 6-hour odyssey somewhat reminiscent of traveling to some of the outer Caribbean islands.

Great Gull Island is a small, 17-acre, low-lying island just northeast of Plum Island in Long Island Sound. It is a continuation of the terminal moraine that forms the greater part of Long Island. It was once owned and occupied by the US Army whose abandoned concrete bunkers, gun pits, and barracks still exist. It is now a research station owned by the American Museum of Natural History.

The minute we landed on the island we were instructed to "watch every step" because the Common Terns nest everywhere. And indeed they do! Having just returned from over-wintering in Brazil and Argentina, the terns had just begun making their nests and laying their eggs. They seem to nest mostly in open grassy areas, but also on bare soil, exposed concrete and paths – any open space on the ground in the interior of the island. In contrast, the Roseate Tern nests are right along the shore hidden among boulders. Most of the Common Tern nests consisted of flattened coarse grasses or a depression in the soil. The nests usually contained 2 or 3 eggs, but sometimes 1 or very rarely 4 or 5. We saw 2 nests with 5 eggs! The oval eggs are about 1½" long, and brown, blue, or greenish in color with brown mottling.

All of the volunteers worked together as a single team under Helen's careful supervision. Once we reached a quadrant, we would fan out and move in a line covering virtually every inch of the area. Our job was to mark all of the nests, and record the number of eggs and approximate location. We marked over 6,500 nests in 3 days! Helen tells us that she marked an additional 3,000 nests, bringing the total for this season to over 9,500 nests. If you figure

that there were 2 or 3 eggs in most nests, that is a lot of eggs!

We always worked as quickly as possible to minimize disruption of the colony. When we entered a nesting area, hundreds of birds would rise up into the air and become most vociferous. They would quickly settle back down on the nests as soon as we left the area.

The focus of the field work changes as the season progresses. Last year during 4th of July week, Beth banded newly hatched chicks, and measured length of wing and weight of older chicks (elephants). She also trapped adult pairs and took measurements such as bill size and weight. Most exciting was getting to see the chicks (Orvilles) start to fly.

Our typical day began at 6:00 AM and ended around 9:30 or 10:00 PM. Although the emphasis was always on "the terns", there were an endless number of other tasks such as cooking, cleaning, small construction projects, and numbering 10,000 tongue depressors used to mark the nests. Long hours, but great camaraderie and lots of fun.

Beside the Common Terns, we also saw egg-filled nests of Roseate Tern, American Oystercatcher, Greater Black-backed Gull, Barn Swallow, and Song Sparrow. Not bad for a weekend! *For more information about volunteer opportunities on the Great Gull Island Project, contact Helen Hays at: hays@amnh.org.*



Membership Application

Chapter No. RO2

Membership in National Audubon includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine and all the benefits of being a local chapter member. As a member of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, you will receive our newsletter and an open invitation to all our meetings, field trips, and events.

- New National Audubon Society member for \$20 (includes *Audubon* magazine) **Make check payable to National Audubon**
- Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine) **Make check payable to Huntington Audubon**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

e-Mail _____

Send your check and application to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735



On Plum Island

by John Turner, Conservation Chair

Much has happened since we last reported to you earlier this year about our efforts to preserve Plum Island, an 840-acre island situated off Orient Point at the tip of the North Fork, by dedicating all or a significant fraction of it as Long Island's newest National Wildlife Refuge!

Presently, the Federal legislation which authorized the sale of Plum Island to a private party is still in effect and the General Services Administration (GSA) is moving forward to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the environmental impact of several potential development scenarios. On May 20th, the GSA held a hearing to solicit public input on issues relevant to the sale of the island. A number of individuals and representatives from environmental organizations spoke, including many groups that are part of a newly formed Preserve Plum Island Coalition of which all Long Island Audubon chapters are a part. The mission of the Coalition is to have Congress reverse course on Plum Island by introducing and passing legislation which protects most or all of the island by having it transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a National Wildlife Refuge.

In its comments to the GSA, the Coalition urged that a complete and full four-season ecological/biological inventory be undertaken on the island so that a complete and accurate assessment of the impacts development might have on these species and communities can be considered. Regarding alternatives in addition to considering the sale of the entire island for development purposes, we asked the GSA to consider selling part of the island for development (the already disturbed footprint) while selling the 85-90% of the island that's undeveloped for conservation purposes. A number of other individuals and organizations spoke expressing their concerns. Of greatest note was the most welcome joint letter from the Environmental Protection Agency's two regional offices, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and especially the letter from Congressman Bishop in which he stated his support, publicly for the first time, for the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge at Plum Island.

We already know much about the ecological worth of the island. For example, the narrow eastern portion of the island serves as a seal haul-out site for as many as several hundred harbor and grey seals during the colder months, making it one of, if not the most significant haul-out site in southern New England. Piping Plovers, a federally threatened species, breed on the island and Common and Roseate Terns, a federally endangered species, rest on the beaches of this undisturbed setting and feed actively in the

waters surrounding the island as do numerous species of loons, grebes, and sea ducks. The shrubby coastal vegetation that covers the island (including extensive thickets of beach plum which gave the island its name) provides habitat for several dozen breeding birds as well as important migratory stopover habitat for migrating species. This latter feature has been shown to be important for songbird species migrating over water in that it allows them an opportunity to land and feed, thereby replenishing their energy reserves. A large freshwater wetland exists in the south-western part of the island. Cultural resources on the island include the Plum Island Lighthouse and the remains of Fort Terry, an old military fortification. These remains include a railroad track on which a small gauge railroad once ran, carrying munitions to needed parts of the island.

Other recent activities by LI Audubon Council representatives on behalf of the Coalition include:

- LIAC reps met with *Newsday's* editorial staff which resulted in a "Keep it Wild, but with Jobs" editorial on May 10th favorable to the Coalition's position. (To view the editorial, go to:

<http://www.newsday.com/opinion/editorial-keep-plum-island-wild-but-with-jobs-1.1901227>.)

- LIAC met with staff from Senator Chuck Schumer's office to explain the Coalition's perspective. Senator Schumer is very interested in the Coalition's idea of preserving Plum Island.

- LIAC reps appeared on Bob DeLuca's East End Radio show "Going Green" to discuss the fate of Plum Island.

- As stated above LIAC spoke at the May 20th GSA hearing in Greenport dealing with the proposed disposition of Plum Island.

- LIAC reps met with the Southold Town Board and Conservation Advisory Council to express the Coalition's support for the creation of a National Wildlife Refuge.

- A Facebook page (Preserve Plum Island), an online petition (www.thepetitionsite.com/1/preserve-plum-island), and a website (www.preserveplumisland.org) have been created. Please take the time to sign the petition and check out the website and Facebook page for current news on this issue.

Stay tuned as the story concerning the fate of this environmentally significant island unfolds in the weeks and months ahead.



Visit us on the web
www.hobaudubon.org
 and Facebook



MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Membership meetings and most activities of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, meeting Board members, and perusing the printed materials available. We're doing this to be sure the program can start promptly at 7:30 and end early enough for us all to exit the building by its 9:00 PM closing hour. Our cooperation and compliance will allow the library staff to close the gate on schedule.

August 2010

Wednesday, August 18, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

September 2010

Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 PM – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *On Thin Ice: The Changing World of the Polar Bear, with Richard Ellis.* Polar bears, fierce and majestic, have captivated us for centuries. Feared by explorers, revered by the Inuit, and beloved by zoo-goers everywhere, polar bears are a symbol for the harsh beauty and muscular grace of the Arctic. Today, as global warming threatens the ice caps' integrity, the polar bear has also come to symbolize the peril that faces all life on Earth as a result of harmful human practices. Tonight, the acclaimed science writer Richard Ellis will offer an impassioned and moving statement on behalf of polar bears and all they stand for. (Visit www.hobaudubon.org for a review of Mr. Ellis's latest book.)

Wednesday, September 15, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

October 2010

Monday, October 4 – Deadline for November-December *Killdeer*.

Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 PM – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Birds of the Ancient and Modern Maya.* Birds have played important roles in Mesoamerican cultures for thousands of years. Rob Fergus, PhD explores the connections between birds and various Mayan cultures as revealed in their ancient art and his ongoing field work with four modern Mayan communities in Guatemala and Belize. In addition to reviewing the songs and calls of Central American birds, if you want to know how the Turkey Vulture got its red head, which bird you can burn to a crisp to make into a love potion, why you can't have sex before you plant your corn crop, or how to cure warts, this is the program for you.

Wednesday, October 20, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Saturday, October 30, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM – **Bird Seed Sale at Huntington High School.** See article on page 1.

November 2010

Wednesday, November 10, 7:00 PM – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Manakins and Their Amazing Audible Courtship Displays* with Kimberly S. Bostwick, PhD.

Birders' Box

Sunday April 18 was a slow day at Prospect Park. Eastern Wood Peewee, Chipping Sparrow, and Eastern Towhee were added to our year's list.

Mother's Day, May 9 was a cold, very windy day. Despite the weather we had a great day birding Central Park. New species added include Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos, Hermit Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and 14 species of warblers: Northern Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black and White, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's.

At Sterling Forest on May 16, the highlights were Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos, Ovenbird, Indigo Bunting, and Broad-winged Hawk.

Birdathon, May 23 was record breaking. (See article on page 8.) 17 species of warblers were seen. The following birds had not been seen on Birdathons in the last 4 years: Wilson's Phalarope, Barn Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. By the end of the Birdathon our total for the year reached 171.

On Monday May 31, 11 people visited Fuchs Pond and Crab Meadow. A quiet day for birding had these highlights: Blue-winged Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, and Willow Flycatcher.

Saturday, June 26 a group of five birders started at Cupsogue and saw 71 species that day. Highlights include Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrow, and Black Skimmers. Three people who continued to other sites saw Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and 3 baby Killdeer.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HOBAS trips is 171.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Outdoor activities, such as birding and hiking with a group, are a wonderful way to share your interests with like-minded people to learn more about birds and nature, and to enjoy many preserves and natural areas. Newcomers are most welcome. Binoculars and field guides are strongly advised, but leaders usually have some field guides to share. Field trips begin between 8:00 and 9:00 AM at the site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. During spring migration, some field trips may begin earlier. That will be clear in the trip announcement. Directions to the site are published below and on our website. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. Contact the trip leader for details. The trip leader is not responsible for arranging carpools, but will provide names of others who are interested in carpooling. Registration is necessary. Call the trip leader by 9:00 PM Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00 PM Friday for a Sunday trip. Be sure to leave your phone number. You may participate if you didn't register, but we will not be able to notify you of any changes or cancellations without your phone number. Dress for the weather realizing you'll be outdoors for long periods of time. Bring water and if the trip is for a full day, bring a bag lunch. Rain or temperature below 20° F cancels. For the comfort and safety of all participants there is no smoking on field trips.

September 2010

Sunday, September 12, 8:30 AM – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Known internationally as a premier US birding spot. **Leader:** Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Directions: Take Southern State Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd south, exit 17S, then head south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1.25 miles from the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light, meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, September 19, 9:00 – Sands Point Preserve and Leeds Pond. We'll look for summer residents and early migrants in these different settings. **Leader:** Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: Take I-495 to exit 36, go north on Searingtown Road which turns into Port Washington Blvd (Route 101). Continue past Port Washington, watch for preserve entrance 1.5 miles ahead on right. Parking fee.

Sunday, September 26, 9:00 AM – Hawk Watch at Robert Moses State Park. Best place to see migrating raptors on LI. Great viewing platform. Walks in the surrounding areas should turn up other early migrants. **Leader:** Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: Take Sagtikos Parkway South to the northeast corner of Parking Field 5, at Robert Moses State Park. We will meet at viewing platform at east end of parking lot.

October 2010

Sunday, October 3, 8:00 AM, Hook Mountain Hawk Watch. Hook Mountain is in Nyack, right over the Tappan Zee Bridge. If we are lucky, there is the possibility of seeing hawks at just about eye level. This hawk watch is located 730 feet above sea level, with beautiful views of the Hudson River. There is a short, but strenuous hike up the mountain to the hawk watch. If the hawk watch is slow, we will search for migrants on the trails. **Leaders:** Benjamin Van Doren and Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

Directions: From the New York State Thruway, take exit 11 (Nyack). Proceed to Route 9W. Turn left onto 9W. Continue past the traffic light, past Christian Herald Road to the top of the hill. At about 1.8 miles from the turn onto 9W, look for the unpaved parking and pull off on the right. (Limited parking, rough surface.) We will meet by the cars. Approximate travel time from Syosset is a little over 1 hour.

Saturday, October 9, 9:00 AM – Jones Beach. We will be looking for early fall migrants that take shelter on the barrier beach before continuing south. These could include many of our rarer shorebirds, any Neotropical songbird, and plenty more.

Directions: Take the Wantagh or Meadowbrook Parkway and follow signs to the Coast Guard Station at the West End. Meet at the little Coast Guard parking lot with the restrooms. **Leader:** Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Sunday, October 10, 10:00 AM, (meeting time 8:45) – Young Naturalist Trip for kids and their families. Today we will go to the Dwarf Pine Plains to search for buck moths and to watch their annual autumnal meeting flight. **Leader:** John Turner. Call Stella Miller (516-695-0763) to register.

Directions: We'll meet at the Exit 49 Park and Ride of the L.I.E. at 8:45AM and head east from that point.

Sunday, October 17, 9:00 AM – Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch at Audubon Center in Greenwich. An easy drive to see some of the fall raptor migration, especially Broad-winged Hawks. A great place to view as the Center has many conveniences. **Leader:** Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: From the Hutchinson Parkway in the Bronx, exit to I-684 North. Take this to exit 3N and head north onto Route 22. At the first light, turn right onto Route 433. Drive 2 miles to the stop sign at the intersection of John St. The Audubon entrance gate is on your left.



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Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

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August – September – October 2010



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Birdathon 2010

Thanks to the generous support of our friends and members, and a last minute donation at our Members Night Pizza Party, we were able to exceed our goal of \$5,000.

We would like to thank our generous donors for the sponsorship and team prizes: Paul and Robin Vermeylen, who very generously underwrote the \$500 cash prize, Meopta Optics (a pair of MeoPro 8x42 binoculars worth \$450), Fiddleheads Restaurant (\$100 gift certificate), Sage Bistro Restaurant (\$50 gift certificate), Sage Bistro manager AJ (who contributed \$50 to the Sage Bistro certificate, bringing its value up to \$100), Wild Honey Restaurant (\$100 gift certificate), Ginger Mahoney (beautiful handcrafted pottery, created in her own studio), David Bathie (a gorgeous hand carved wooden shorebird) and Stella Miller, who solicited the prizes and organized the fundraising. Of course, thanks go to the team members who birded for the event (sometimes around the clock): Brent Bomkamp, Brent Bomkamp Sr., Douglas Caracapa, Brendan Fogarty, Mike Givant, Ginger Mahoney, Stella Miller, Charlotte Miska, Bill Reeves, Vinnie Schiappa, and Joe Viglietta

The lucky raffle winners were: Regina Pellegrino (\$500 cash), Greg Barber (gift certificates to Sage Bistro and Fiddleheads), and Helen Wermelinger (Wild Honey gift certificate).

The folks sponsoring the team members were not the only ones who had a chance to win prizes. Team members competed to see who could bring in the most donations. Ginger Mahoney did it again and came in third, but very generously withdrew from winning her own pottery (again) and handed her prize over to Robert Benjamin (who had made a last minute donation to bring us to \$5,000). Second prize was the carving and Bill Reeves was the winner in that category for the second year in a row, adding to his Birdathon shorebird carving collection. Stella Miller once again raised the most in sponsorships and took home the Meopta binoculars.

Everyone's efforts were much appreciated and we look forward to Birdathon 2011.

Birdathon Sets All-time Record!

YOC members Brent Bomkamp and Brendan Fogarty started the day upstate at 3:00 AM and finished on Long Island late in the afternoon, recording 142 species. In the words of our Birdathon leader Bill Reeves "WELL DONE! . . . because of your superb birding we reached a total species count of 148 an all-time record for our HOBAS Birdathons." The young people's group recorded 142 species and the adult group recorded 90 including 6 species not seen by the teens. Congratulations to all!



Bird Seed Sale – October 30, 2010
Huntington High School 9:00 – 2:00