

## The Huntington Audubon Society

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

January - February 2008

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

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### Upcoming Field Trip to Wolf Center



On Saturday May 17, 2008 we will once again visit the **Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY**, along with a walk through the **Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River**. The Wolf Center visits are booked months in advance. In order to ensure that we have a spot on that day, we must have our reservations in place by **February 8, 2008**. There is a \$12 (\$10 for children under 12) entry fee that must be paid in advance to hold our reservation.

A visit to the Wolf Conservation Center begins with a 30-minute slide presentation that covers the biology, ecology, and mythology of wolves. They will discuss the difference between wolves, dogs, and coyotes. The wolf is examined as a social predator at the top of the food chain, with special attention paid to its role in the larger environmental picture. After the slide presentation visitors are introduced to the four wolves who act as ambassadors for their wild counterparts. This segment is an informal question and answer period and can last anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour.

Last year this trip was a huge hit and we encourage parents to bring their children! The walk at Ward Pound Ridge is optional and further details will be furnished once we have the trip booked.

**If you want to attend this event, please send your check for \$12 per person (children under 12 are \$10), made out to the Wolf Conservation Center to Stella Miller, 107A Convent Road, Syosset NY 11791. Please give the name of the participants who will be attending, along with a telephone number. The deadline for this is February 8, 2008.**

### From the Board of Directors



- A Jamaica Bay Coalition, headed by Don Riepe, has been formed to help promote the protection of Jamaica Bay. Many environmental groups were asked to lend their names to support the group. The Board of Directors voted to add our name, Huntington Audubon Society, to the Coalition.
- Some members of HAS weeded a section of land at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and it was decided at the September meeting to spend \$50 to buy bulbs to be planted in that area to beautify the TRS grounds.
- Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, a much admired member of our state organization, Audubon New York, passed away this year. A fund in his name has been established to promote the goals of Audubon state-wide. We contributed \$100 to Geoffrey Cobb Ryan Memorial Fund.
- Our membership drive is coming along well. We received a \$1,000 grant from Audubon New York for promotional materials such as the tee shirts and tote bags that we are giving away with new membership. So far we have 29 new members. The membership drive, which started on September 29<sup>th</sup>, is ongoing.
- To encourage more participation by families, we are scheduling some children-friendly field trips to places such as the Morton Preserve and the Bronx Zoo.
- Fund raising is going well with over \$300 worth of ornaments sold, continued revenue from the recycling of inkjet cartridges, and a very successful Bird Seed Sale.

**January Program**

Wednesday, January 9  
**Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments  
 7:30 PM Speaker

***The Mysterious Snow Leopard***

Dr. Thomas of the Wildlife Conservation Society will discuss the biology, behavior, and threats facing snow leopards today in the wild, what the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is doing to conserve the species, and his trip last year to Pakistan's Himalayas to bring an orphaned cub back to New York. Dr. Thomas has been with the WCS's Bronx Zoo's Mammal Department since 1979. He is currently the general curator and is responsible for supervising the care and management of over 4,000 animals from nearly 500 species, and manages a staff of over 130 people. (See *Field Trips* page for a trip to the Bronx Zoo to see their big cats and more.)

*The mission of the Huntington 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 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
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Blair Broughton	(516) 802-5356
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Ginger Mahoney	(516) 922-4599
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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
TR Sanctuary	(516) 922-3200

You can find us on the World Wide Web at  
**[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)**  
 E-mail us at [has@huntingtonaudubon.org](mailto:has@huntingtonaudubon.org).

**Featured Volunteers - Helpers at Birdseed Sale**

The saying is "Many hands make light work." BUT lifting 25 or 30 pound bags of birdseed into the trunks of cars and backs of SUVs for hours in all kinds of weather can hardly be called light work. Perhaps the term should be "lighthearted work" when describing Birdseed Sale Day with its steady stream of customers and cheerful volunteers.

We see the same faces helping out on the day of the Birdseed Sale. Sometimes one or two people skip a year, some move away, but the crew has remained remarkably steady over the past 10 years or so. Many have been helping regularly since the days when Tom Caggiano was in charge of the sale. As you picked up your birdseed outside, you are likely to have seen Frank Appleton, Blair Broughton, Tom Caggiano, Keith Caruso, Bill McAneny, Rich Mooers, Joe Polashock, Bill Reeves, Vinnie Schiappa, Herman Wenz, and Marty Wenz. Indoors you might have been helped by Howard Bolston, Sharon Brody, Annie Brosnan, Cathy Fitts, Bob May, Shirley McAneny, Charlotte Miska, Eleanor Polashock, and Jane Schmidt.

After Tom Caggiano, Lynn Beegle served as the sale organizer, followed by the current co-chairs, Sharon Brody and Cathy Fitts.

Quite a while ago Marc Brody and David Papayanopulos joined the outdoor crew with Alice Del Bosco, Ellen Engelhardt, and Maria Kelly helping indoors. Then Dan Mahoney started helping outdoors and Louise Hublitz, Ginger Mahoney, Petie Szabo, and Joanne Tow indoors.

The last two years the sale was held in conjunction with the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, the usual recipient of the profits of our sale. Helping out from TR were Betty Borowski, Michelle McFaul, Ed Mohlenhoff, and Aaron Virgin. The HAS "regulars" were well represented with Marc and Sharon Brody, Ann Brosnan, Blair Broughton, Alice Del Bosco, Simone DaRos, Cathy Fitts, Dick Furman, Louise Hublitz, Maria Kelly, Ginger and Dan Mahoney, Bob May, Stella Miller, Charlotte Miska, Rosemary and David Papayanopulos, Bill Reeves, Vinnie Schiappa, Jane Schmidt, Petie Szabo, Joanne Tow, Marty Wenz, and Herman Wenz doing their share to make the Birdseed Sale Huntington Audubon's biggest fund raiser.

Many, many thanks to all for such steady, loyal support.



## Oyster Festival 2007 by Stella Miller



Once again we had wonderful weather for the Oyster Festival held in downtown Oyster Bay October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. This year HAS shared a booth with Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc. (WINORR). A terrific time was had by all. Volunteers

were Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Cathy Fitts, Alice Del Bosco, Stella Miller, Richard Ingordo, Bobby Horvath, and Vinnie Schiappa. Attracted by the birds of prey we had on display, hordes of people stopped by. We had on hand a Barred, Screech, and Barn Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel, all handled by Stella Miller. The birds were the main attraction and as Stella displayed each bird, the crowd was sometimes 10 people deep! The festival goers were very generous and contributed a substantial amount of money for the wildlife of WINORR.

We kicked off our membership drive at the festival and were very successful in signing up new members. These new members received either a free HAS tee shirt or tote as a thank you. Once again we sold Marcia Polling's gorgeous hand-painted Christmas ornaments.

We handed out literature, talked about what we do as an organization, and answered many questions. The days were long, but the volunteers never wavered in their commitment to providing community awareness of what both groups do. We look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings and field trips, and attracting even more new members!

We would like to thank the festival goers who stopped by our booth on both days and the volunteers who worked the booth. **We would especially like to thank Bobby Horvath, of WINORR, for loaning us his birds of prey for the two days.** This was the first festival for these birds, and as hard as the volunteers worked, the birds were the real trouper! One could include Micah, Sabrina, Kiki, Cosmo, and Diana on the list of volunteers!!! We look forward to Oyster Festival 2008!

## Something for Everyone by Maria Kelly

Backyard birding your thing? Ready to travel to chase a rare bird? Then [www.libirding.com](http://www.libirding.com) is for you. It is a website that has something for everyone who likes birds. If you don't venture beyond your yard and feeder to enjoy birds you'll love this website. If you chase rare birds, you'll enjoy this website.

The site, sprinkled with great photos in most sections,

has many interesting features. The *Backyard Corner*, with excellent photos, describes what's happening in a backyard in East Islip and gives tips for backyard birding specific to the season. Tips for attracting birds, feeding them, cleaning feeders, building nest boxes etc. are included. The *Identification* page is superb for both backyard birders and those who venture around LI. It has excellent photos; plenty of birds grouped sensibly and clear, specific information. The *Featured Bird* focuses on one LI bird, and gives in depth information on it with great photos and links for further study. On its *Home* page is a section called Notice Board that posts upcoming meetings and field trips on LI including Huntington Audubon's. The *Home* page also has a section Principles of Birding giving the American Birding Association's code of ethics for birding. The *Recent Sightings* page covers sites across the whole of LI including Jones Beach, Fire Island, Sunken Meadow State Park, Forest Park, Alley Pond Park, and other New York City locations and many on the East End of LI. Many have a link to a Google map. Recent Sightings are updated several times a week so you don't have to wait for Friday evening to call the Rare Bird Alert to know what's new. *Seasonal Hot Spots* gives prime locations on LI for birding including a brief description of the area, some birds you might see there, sometimes phone numbers, some photos and many links for more information. It has a *Conservation* page, *In the News* page, *Interesting Odds and Ends* page, and more.

I really like the fact that this one site is designed specifically for Long Island and has plenty for both the casual backyard birder and the person who will venture far beyond the backyard. I'm enjoying it more and more. I suggest you try it, too.

### February Program

Wednesday, February 13  
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

### Members' Night

Sharon and Mark Brody will share highlights of their June 2006 vacation in a program they call, "The Alaska You Won't See on a Cruise Ship." Members' Night is a long-standing HAS tradition where extra time is allotted for chatting and getting to know one another better. We invite all of you to bring photo albums, art, collections, whatever, to share in a night of camaraderie and great refreshments.

## Up-Country by Bill McAneny



*This is the fourth in a series of articles describing the pleasures of life among the Finger Lakes. We live just north of the border between Seneca and Tompkins Counties. Our street is the county line. Shirley and I moved here from Huntington seven years ago.*

In previous columns, I don't recall making mention of the remarkable wildflowers we have in the up-country. Those of you who have lived on Long Island for a long time will remember the fields and roadsides that were vibrant with color from spring through fall. With the passing of the years, you have seen fewer and fewer blossoms every year. What's happening?

For one thing, fields are fast becoming housing developments. Other than that, everyone mows. The highway departments are charged with mowing, so mow, they do. Doesn't matter what flowering plants are there. Roadsides have to look neat, and litter caught in the grass has to be picked up. That's the job, right? When you had to push a reel-type lawnmower, not so much ever got mowed and flowers (blooming weeds?) prospered.

The other problem is that flowers that escape the mower sometimes just disappear, with just a hole where they were scooped out by some larcenous gardener who doesn't realize that his/her garden chemistry is particularly ill-suited for tender wildflowers. Larry Penny of East Hampton once told us of spying a rare wildflower blooming by the Riverhead roadside. He had to drive down the road a piece to turn around. When he got back to the spot, the flower was already dug up and gone.

That happens in the up-country too. Shirley and I had a favorite spot where we watched the bloodroot pop up early in the spring. A couple of years ago, there was just a rough scrape where the whole patch had been stolen. (That's not too harsh a word, is it? We actually had harsher words for the perpetrator.) But, I am getting off the point. The point is that we have lots of woodlots, swamps, roadsides, and fallow fields up here and not many people. As a result, we have many suitable habitats and large expanses of growing room.

The snow is barely gone when we have snowdrops and aconite (not wild, of course), followed closely by the purple blooms of Creeping Charlie, followed by expanses of veronica and then dandelions, which of course become dandelion seeds, which makes it look like it snowed again. Then come buttercups and hawkweed and white clover and least hop clover and the little whippy stems of plantains. Canada thistle then makes an appearance. And this is just in our lawn!

Shirley would like a lawn composed of grass. Must be a cultural thing. My feeling is, if it is all green and all the same height, it's a pretty good lawn. And it is wonderful to discover which little treasure has survived the weekly scalping. And I think I'm digressing again.

One of life's great pleasures here is to drive slowly along the back roads — and we have lots of back roads — and see what's coming up. There are often acres of field mustard, ox-eye daisies, wild parsnips, goldenrod, and milkweed. The spring woods are filled with Dame's rocket and sometimes white trillium and may-apple. I travel with my camera to record these amazing examples of what nature will provide if only we give her a chance.

On the other side of our road there is a drainage ditch. There are lots of drainage ditches in the up country. The clay soil does not absorb water very well, so it has to collect somewhere. Our mailbox stands next to the ditch. We get lots of opportunities to look into the ditch to see what's growing. Watercress is my favorite, but there is lots of hawkweed, followed by touch-me-nots. Between the ditch and the road, there is a long, narrow strip of bird's foot trefoil, which has a pea-like blossom of bright yellow and orange. When it blooms here in late June, it blooms on every roadside. Then in July, the chicory pops open. One day it's not there and the next day the familiar blue blossoms are everywhere. One wonders when they bloomed. Were they here yesterday? The day before? Is it so common I take it for granted? Is it like my bird list, where I always forget to write down mourning dove, house sparrow, starling, and crow?

When I was learning the wildflowers from Peterson's field guide, I was intrigued by the flowers that were "common" or "widespread" but that I never found on Long Island. Two of these were coltsfoot and Herb-Robert. Interesting names. Coltsfoot blooms early in the up country. It catches the eye because it forms modest patches of yellow along the roadsides that recently held snow. Herb-Robert is a delicate-looking plant in the geranium family, with pink blossoms that endure all summer. And it blooms all around our house! These are just two more new friends we have met in the up country.

The wild blossoms and their seeds attract lots of birds and insects, so it is with great pleasure we travel afield up here among the Finger Lakes. If you long to revisit the olden days of rural Long Island, you need only spend some summer days in beautiful upstate New York.

Well, I know you are all waiting to hear about invasives, but that's another story for another time.

*Editor's Note: Bill McAneny was an active member of HAS for more than 35 years. During that time he served two terms as president, was editor of the Killdeer, coordinator of Armchair Activist from its inception, and HAS representative to numerous local, state, and national committees. We welcome him back to the Killdeer.*

**Out on a Limb**  
by Alex McKay

Although I've tried it before a few times, I've started to CFL - not completely flip my lid - but convert from traditional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs. I bought two six-packs of Energy Star approved 100-watt CFL bulbs with their unusual spiral configuration and replaced all my basement bulbs and several lamps and hall lights with the new lights. They are a little disconcerting at first, taking a second or two to go on and a minute or two to reach their full brightness. According to the package, the bulbs use only 23 watts of electricity to produce their rated 100 watts and will last 13 times longer than standard 750 hour bulbs, for an estimated savings of \$554.

Not only are the bulbs economical, but they are also environmentally friendly with their energy efficiency. On the downside, the bulbs contain trace amounts of mercury and precautions must be taken if one should break and when disposing of used or broken bulbs. For broken bulbs, nearby windows should be opened to disperse any vapor that may escape. Sweep up fragments (do not use hands) and wipe area with a disposable paper towel to pick up all glass fragments. **Do not vacuum.** Place fragments in a sealed plastic bag. Call 1-800- CLEAN-UP or visit [earth911.org](http://earth911.org) to locate mercury recycling or disposal facilities.

Suffolk County politicians have promised to address the disposal issue and County Executive Levy released an Executive Order in August to eliminate all incandescent bulbs in county facilities by January 1, 2008. He has also announced that he will pioneer legislation for a countywide ban on incandescents to take effect in 2012.

CF bulbs contain less mercury than thermometers or thermostats. Environmental Defense notes that "using CF bulbs actually prevents more mercury from being released into the air by power plants. A power plant emits about 10 mg of mercury to produce the electricity to run an incandescent bulb, compared to only 2.4 mg of mercury to run a CF bulb." Environmental Defense has launched an educational campaign aimed at getting 100 million CFL's into U.S. homes this year.

For more about CFL's, visit [environmentaldefense.org](http://environmentaldefense.org) and click on "Make the Switch." There are detailed tips for selecting and buying energy-efficient bulbs, the Energy Star program, and an opportunity to "Take the Pledge" to switch to CFL's. When I pledged to switch to 10 CFL bulbs, I watched a meter registering total CO2 savings from pledges jump from 259,963,470 to 259, 976, 418, a savings of almost 13,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions for the life of my 10 bulbs. It's enough to make you Completely Flip your Lights to take a small part in combating global warming.

**We Outdid Ourselves**



Thank you, thank you, thank you! Our loyal Bird Seed Sale customers supported the sale once again, and we exceeded last year's total. The feeder birds thank you and the Audubon educational programs the profits support will once again benefit from your generosity. Enjoy watching our feathered friends!

**Address Changes, Please Clip and Save This Information**



To change your address on Audubon records, write to The National Audubon Society, Membership Services, PO Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529. You can also phone toll free 1-800-274-4201. Give them your old address, your new address and your current magazine label. It usually takes 6 to 8 weeks to process this information.

If you have Chapter only membership and do not receive *Audubon* magazine, just give the old and new addresses and send to Huntington Audubon Society, PO Box 735, Huntington, NY 1173-0735.



**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 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)
- Huntington Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine)

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**P.O. Box 735**  
**Huntington, NY 11743-073**



## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and activities of the Huntington 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 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.

### January 2008

**Wednesday, January 9, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *The Mysterious Snow Leopard*, with Dr. Patrick Thomas, Ph.D. Dr. Thomas of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) will discuss the biology, behavior, and threats facing snow leopards today in the wild, what WCS is doing to conserve the species, and his trip last year to Pakistan's Himalayas to bring an orphaned cub back to New York. Dr. Thomas has been with the WCS's Bronx Zoo Mammal Department since 1979. He is currently the general curator and is responsible for supervising the care and management of over 4,000 animals from nearly 500 species, and manages a staff of over 130 people. Many of you will remember Dr. Thomas from our terrific May program about African wild dogs.

**Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.**

**Thursday, January 31 – Deadline for the March-April Killdeer.**

### February 2008

**Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Members' Night* - We invite our members to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature with the audience that evening. Some of us bring slides, still photos, or hobby collections, others bring mementos, some share stories or books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. Sharon and Mark Brody will share highlights of their June 2006 vacation in a program they call, "The Alaska You Won't See on a Cruise Ship."

**Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.**

### March 2008

**Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Shorebirds by Impression: A Different Approach to Field Identification with Kevin Karlson.* This program highlights a new and exciting approach to field identification, Birding by Impression, and how it specifically relates to shorebirds. This approach focuses initially on impressions of non-changeable field characters of size, shape, and behavior/body language to form a fast, yet surprisingly effective picture of every bird seen. Throughout the program, Kevin shares the stunning beauty and incredible migratory journeys of shorebirds using photos that capture the essence of these global travelers. Kevin T. Karlson has been a wildlife photographer for 26 years and active as a birder for 30 years. He has traveled from the wilds of the Alaskan Arctic to the rainforests of South America to photograph birds. As a noted wildlife photographer in North America, his work is widely published in numerous birding magazines and journals, as well as books, field guides, calendars, and CD-ROMs. Kevin is currently on the advisory board of *Wild Bird* magazine as well as a staff contributor of the column Birder's ID. He recently completed an innovative book called *The Shorebird Guide* with co-authors Michael O'Brien and Richard Crossley, released in April 2006.

**Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.**



Help reduce waste by bringing your own reusable cup or mug for coffee and tea to the membership meetings. In appreciation of your effort, everyone bringing a reusable cup will get a free raffle ticket.



Bring your used ink cartridges to the meetings to be recycled. (Note: Epson "throwaway" style cartridges cannot be recycled.)

Thanks for your support!



## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free and open to the public. Birding with a group is 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 at 9:00 AM at the birding site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. 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.

### January 2008

**Saturday, January 12, 10:00 AM – Bronx Zoo.** The topic of our January membership meeting is Snow Leopards and in conjunction with this, we will visit the Bronx Zoo to visit their resident big cats. The focus of the trip will be the Snow Leopard exhibit and Tiger Mountain and then we will wander the rest of the zoo! Entry and parking fees are as follows: Parking: \$10. Entry fees: Adults: \$14, Seniors: \$12, Children 3-12: \$10. Registration is a must. Call Stella Miller at 516-695-0763. We will stop for lunch at the Café.

**Directions:** Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge to the Cross Bronx Expressway West to the Bronx River Parkway North to exit 7W (Fordham Road). Once on Fordham Road, the road will fork, bear right up the ramp. At the light, make a left onto Southern Blvr. Follow Southern Blvd to 182nd Street and Bronx Park South. The Bronx Zoo is on the left. We will meet at the Southern Boulevard gate.

**Saturday, January 26, 9:00 AM – Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.** Explore the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Possible stops also at Connetquot State Park or in Sayville. Leader: Pat Aitken (516-921-2337).

**Directions:** LIE Exit 68S or Sunrise Hwy. (Rte 27) Exit 58S to the William Floyd Pkwy (CR46S). From the junction of William Floyd Pkwy and Montauk Hwy (Rte 27A/CR80) proceed west on Montauk Hwy for approximately 1 mile, turn south onto Smith Road. Go 1/4 mile to the refuge entrance on the right. Meet at the entrance.

### February 2008

**Saturday, February 9 – All day trip to Hudson Valley.** Join with the Adirondack Mountain Club in this annual search for eagles that come south looking for open water. Co-leaders: Dick Furman and Arlene Scholer. Register by Thursday, February 7 with Arlene at 516-354-0231 before 9 PM for driving directions and meeting place.

**Sunday, February 17, 9:00 AM – Point Lookout.** Look for loons, grebes, and Harlequin Ducks which are usually seen only on Long Island at Point Lookout. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

**Directions:** Take Meadowbrook Pkwy to Loop Pkwy. At the end of Loop Pkwy turn left. Go to the end of the road. Park anywhere near the entrance to the Park. We'll meet by the gate to the Park.

**Sunday, February 24, 9:00 AM – All day trip to Montauk Point.** Winter waterfowl abound including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks.

**Directions:** Take the LIE to exit 70, Manorville. Go south on Route 111 to Route 27. Take Route 27 east all the way to Montauk Point Lighthouse. There may be a parking fee. Meet by the restaurant opposite the parking lot. Call Pat Aitken (516-921-2337) before 9:00 PM for information.

### March 2008

**Sunday, March 2, 9:00 AM – Target Rock NWR.** Target Rock is part of the Long Island Refuge Complex. Within the 80 acres are various habitats with a 1-mile trail that goes from the forest to the beach at Huntington Bay. We should see birds that spend the winter in the various habitats.

**Directions:** From Route 25A in Huntington Village head north on West Neck Road towards Caumsett State Park. Continue past the park and the road bends to the left (north) until you reach Target Rock. Must pay modest fee to enter Refuge. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

**Monday, March 10 through Sunday, March 16, 6:00 PM – Wick's Farm Woodcock Watch.** Each evening Dick Furman will be near the building opposite White Post Farm's parking area on Pulaski Road to guide birders into the area of Wick's Farm where Woodcocks were seen displaying around mid-March. The displays occur at dusk. Bring a flashlight to light your way back to the road. Leader: Dick Furman (631-692-7356).

**Directions:** From the east, take Pulaski Road. west passed Oakwood Road in Huntington. From the west, take Woodbury Road toward Huntington. When Woodbury Road veers to the left after the Cold Spring Harbor RR Station stay straight. That becomes Pulaski Road. White Post Farms is about 1/4 mile from there.

*Field Trips continued on page 8.*



# killdeer

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Huntington, NY 11743-0735

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January - February 2008



Printed on recycled paper.

## Field Trips (Continued)

**Sunday, March 30, 9:00 AM – Shu Swamp Nature Preserve, TR Sanctuary, and Sagamore Hill.** Early spring walk in three short but very different habitats that are near each other. We'll start at Shu Swamp and will search for Wood Ducks and spring visitors. Skunk cabbage and spring ephemerals should be blooming. We will continue on to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, to check the feeders and take a short hike on the trails. Finally at Sagamore Hill, we'll walk the trail from the Old Orchard museum down to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor. Afterwards, feel free to visit the museum or tour Sagamore Hill.

**Directions:** To Shu Swamp - From 25A, take 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left on to Lexington Ave. then another left on to West Shore Road. Directly after Mill Pond (on the left), make a left turn to go up the hill on Mill Hill Road. Make a right on Beaverbrook Road, which will become Frost Mill Road. Shu Swamp will be on the left, just before a rail road trestle. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

## Birders' Box

Recent field trips did not add any more species to our total, but did add delightful experiences. On a very chilly Dec 1, 15 hardy participants braved wind gusts to see ducks and other wintering birds. We saw Buffleheads, Black Ducks, Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, Long-tailed Ducks, and Green-winged Teal (from a distance), Hooded Mergansers, Gadwalls, American Widgeon, and of course many Mallards. Many ducks were huddled far from our view, but 2 Kingfishers and 4 or 5 Great Blue Herons flew right near us, several times giving us great views. A few participants left early, but the 8 who stayed to the end were rewarded with a real treat. At Betty Allen Twin Ponds a flock of Cedar Waxwings posed all around us, 4 above us, 2 straight ahead, low and easy to see, 5 more to the right, a couple to the left. We got excellent views! A wonderful ending to the field trip.

**Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 165.**



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