

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

January – February 2010

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Birds & Birding – The Basics & Beyond A Three-Part Workshop Series



Did you know that birds can detect magnetic fields or that a Blue Jay's feather is not really blue? Or that birds breathe differently than people and that some birds can catch prey in complete darkness? Do you want to

know why some birds eat clay? Want to know effective steps you can take to help birds?

If these questions pique your curiosity and you want to deepen your understanding and appreciation of birds, then we encourage you to participate in this **three-part monthly series of workshops given by John Turner**. After the first workshop, a field trip to view winter waterfowl will be held to apply your newly polished bird identification skills.

Session 1:

1. What it is to be a Bird and What Bird is That? – Introduction and field identification.
2. Bird Bodies and Minds – An overview of bird senses, anatomy, and intelligence.

Session 2:

3. Birds on the Wing – The mechanics of flight, elements of navigation and migration.
4. Nests, Eggs, and Young – The early life of a bird.

Session 3:

5. Food and Feeding – An overview of the types of food birds eat, the ways in which they feed, and the ecological implications of feeding.
6. Birds for the Next Generation – Conserving birds today and through the years.

John Turner is an adjunct professor of Ornithology in the Natural Sciences Department at SUNY-Stony Brook Southampton College and is an interpretive specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. He is

the Director of the Division of Environmental Protection for the town of Brookhaven. Previously, he served as Director of Conservation Programs for the Long Island Chapters of The Nature Conservancy. Prior to this position, he was Legislative Director of the New York State Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of New York State and Long Island, chaired by Assembly member Tom DiNapoli. John is a co-founder of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and served on its board for 26 years.

Place: Cold Spring Harbor Library

Dates: Thursdays, February 25, March 25, and April 29

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Price: \$20 per workshop or \$50 for the series

Field trip date: February 27th at 10:00 AM, location to be announced at first workshop.

To register: Please call Charlotte Miska (516-456-6791). Make out your check to **Huntington Audubon** and send it to **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon, PO Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735**.

You're Invited to Members' Night

Members' Night traditionally gives us a chance to get to know one another better as individuals. We invite our members to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature that evening. Some of us have slides, photos, hobby collections, or mementos; others share stories and books. Or just come and share the camaraderie of like-minded people. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable.

As a special thank you to our loyal members, we will be serving pizza, along with other delicious snacks. Please join us for this fun, social evening!



January Program

Wednesday, January 13
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

Ecology of Saw-whets in Southeastern NY
with Trudy Battaly and Drew Panko

Saw-whet Owls, the smallest owls in the northeast, are found in our region during fall and winter. Where do they come from? How long do they stay? Will they come back next year? Do they ever stay to breed? Drew and Trudy have some very interesting encounters to share with you, some answers, and many more questions about these wonderful creatures.

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.

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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**.

Famed Hog Island Camp Reopens

by Pete Salmansohn, National Audubon Society

The National Audubon Society is happy to report that the historic Audubon Camp on Maine's Hog Island will reopen for four ornithology sessions during the summer of 2010. Camp director Dr. Steve Kress has lined up some of the best ornithologists in the country - Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Scott Weidensaul - to teach in June during the traditional camp programs. Additionally, said Dr. Kress, the camp will host two totally new sessions in cooperation with Elder Hostel, now Exploritas, (http://www.exploritas.org/Programs/search_res.asp?Type=A&StateCode=ME) where participants will work on active seabird nesting islands to census gulls, eiders, and cormorants, and later to help restore habitat on Eastern Egg Rock for endangered and threatened terns. One teen birding session will be held in late June, for ages 14-17, with 13 spaces available.

The camp was closed during the summer of 2009 and will now be managed by Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program. Camp participants can choose from a variety of housing arrangements on the 330 acre spruce-covered island, and will enjoy three home-cooked meals a day in a reconvered farmhouse directly overlooking Muscongus Bay. During the 5-day sessions small field groups of "campers" will go on a variety of trips and boat cruises, and attend workshops and presentations from the teaching staff on topics ranging from migration and the identification of warblers to the restoration of Atlantic Puffins and terns on a nearby island.

The Hog Island camp first opened in 1936, with Roger Tory Peterson as its first bird instructor. It is well known in America's environmental community as a distinguished and beautiful place of learning and enjoyment. For more information on dates, sessions, costs, instructors, etc. go to www.projectpuffin.org. To read testimonials and see a variety of photos and stories about the camp during the last seven decades, visit www.naturecompass.org/fohi.

Birdseed Sale

by Sharon Brody, Birdseed Sale, Co-Chair



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon's Birdseed Sale on Saturday, October 24, 2009, was a huge success. This could not have happened without the participation of our dedicated members. I wish to thank all of those who purchased seed, those who helped load the orders into the cars, and those who helped inside the lobby with the paper work and the items being sold. A special thank you goes to Cathy Fitts for her countless hours on the computer. Also, a thank you goes to North Shore and South Shore Audubon Societies for spreading the word to their members about our sale.

LI Audubon Council Meeting Report

by Brent Bomkamp, age 16

On Saturday, November 14, I attended the Long Island Audubon Council Meeting, hosted by Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Overall, the meeting was very productive and each chapter introduced numerous threats to the environment present on Long Island, and the initiatives that each chapter has been undertaking in order to curb the possible damages.

One of the more pressing issues is the imminent closure of Plum Island by the federal government, brought up by HOBAS’s own conservation dynamo John Turner. It is possible that if not protected, this pristine and unspoiled island may very well be developed. Great South Bay Audubon introduced its interesting horseshoe crab survey program. Horseshoe crab harvesting is legal in New York State, and although quotas are set, commercial fishermen are often witnessed hauling loads well in excess of the daily limits. Unfortunately, the DEC has been rather unresponsive to these actions. With monitoring, a population estimate on the New York horseshoe crab population may be obtained, and the fishery may possibly be closed indefinitely as in New Jersey and Delaware.

Also, HOBAS gave the council an update on the work of the Youth Outreach Committee, which was introduced to them at the previous meeting. Some projects which had taken place since then include a workshop with the Dominican Sisters in Amityville, a furthering of the Kestrel Nest Box project, and steps which have been put in place to begin surveying local office buildings for birds which have collided with glass. It is apparent that HOBAS is undertaking some of the most comprehensive and critical programs of any chapter on Long Island, especially the Save Our Raptors initiative, spearheaded by Stella Miller, and recently recognized by the board of the Solid Waste Association of North America. Al Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York, was present and wasted no time in commending HOBAS for its steps which have taken the chapter into the national, and now international, conservation scene. Congratulations to HOBAS for their incredible involvement in the protection of our natural world both in our area and around the country.

Yohay Baking Company

We would like to thank Yohay Baking Company for their generous donation of delicious fudge and cookies that we all enjoyed at our recent membership meeting. Visit their website www.yohay.com to see their full line of specialty baked goods.



Congress Approves Major Funding Increase for LI Sound Restoration

As the debate on the federal budget has come to an end, Congress and the President have agreed to spend \$7 million for protecting and restoring Long Island Sound, more than double the funding received last year. This funding will be split between the Long Island Sound Stewardship and Restoration Acts, and stimulate efforts to improve water quality and protect important open spaces around this critical national treasure.

“Today is a great day for Long Island Sound, and this increased funding will jumpstart desperately needed water quality improvements, habitat protection initiatives, and enhanced public access opportunities, ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy a cleaner Long Island Sound,” said Albert E. Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York, the state program of the National Audubon Society. “We applaud our Congressional champions, especially Congressman Israel, Congresswoman Lowey, Congressman Bishop, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and the rest of the Long Island Sound Congressional Caucus members for fighting hard for this critical funding.”

To view a copy of the press release, please go to our website.



Visit us on the web
www.hobaudubon.org

February Program
Wednesday, February 10
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

Members’ Night

Members’ Night is a long-standing HOBAS tradition where extra time is allotted for chatting and getting to know one another better. 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, photos, or hobby collections, others bring mementos, some share stories or books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. The Youth Outreach Committee will present a program on Kestrels and the Audubon NY/Together Green project and our role in it.

Out on a Limb by Alex McKay

Concern about global warming and climate change is rightfully a priority on the environmental agenda, but a new global threat has been emerging as cause for equal or even greater concern – the multiplying and active spread of invasive species from all sectors of the globe that threaten to eradicate many of our native plants and animals. From Asian long-horned beetles in New England to Burmese pythons in the Everglades, and water chestnut and Zebra mussels in New York, there are enough alphabets of aliens to fill several herbals and bestiaries of unwanted invaders. A plague of plants, animals, reptiles, birds, insects, and others can decimate native species if left unchecked.

The economic impact of damage and efforts to control non-native species is staggering - over \$100 billion a year according to a Cornell study a decade ago. Millions of acres of National Wildlife Refuge habitat are being attacked by an estimated 675 exotic species. In Loxahatchee Refuge alone, \$3 million has been expended to attempt to eradicate an infestation of Australian melaleuca trees. Additional millions were needed to bring under control a population of nutria that were devastating wetlands in Blackwater Refuge in Maryland. Additional millions are going to bounties to eliminate another population of nutria from Louisiana's coastal marshes.

Troublesome aliens like the nutria have been introduced innocently, if not ignorantly. The European starling, gypsy moths, the classic release of the mongoose in Hawaii, and many others have been the result of honest but misdirected intentions that had no awareness of their ultimate environmental impact. Other arrivals are accidental with plants and insects stowed away in packing materials and ballast used in international shipments. Many horticultural invaders like Brazilian pepper and purple loosestrife have escaped from nurseries and gardens.

One of the more bizarre and significant invasions is the proliferation of Burmese pythons in the Everglades. The release of unwanted pet snakes that had proved troublesome to their owners has resulted in an explosion of their numbers in a fragile environment. Now numbering between 10,000 and 100,000, the pythons, which can grow to 16 feet and more, have become a horror and menace to native species. Endangered wood rats and fox squirrels, wood storks, even deer, bobcats, and alligators have become prey to these behemoth reptiles. Capturing and euthanizing have eliminated over a thousand of these predators. A costly bounty program and extensive volunteer efforts will be needed to get the pythons under control before they spread northward, already having reached south to the Keys across six miles of Florida Bay and deemed capable of reaching as far north as Georgia.

Closer to home, there are dozens of threats to our wetlands and forests. We are all familiar with phragmites and purple loosestrife in local wetlands. Japanese knotweed has delayed repairs to the weir and drainage system at Fuchs Pond preserve where mugwort or artemisia overgrows the path on the LIPA right-of-way and garlic mustard thrives in the understory of the woodlands. Water primrose was recently choking the Peconic River until volunteers from numerous organizations brought it under control.

Some of the names are as noxious as the pests themselves. How about some rock snot (or didymo) on a stream bottom or a northern snakehead in a pond or Chinese mitten crabs in the Hudson? In the Adirondacks, foresters are concerned about the possible occurrence of the emerald ash borer and Asiatic longhorned beetle that can ravage native trees as they have in Michigan and other parts of the country.

Invasives will not disappear easily. Some, like the starling, may become established and survive. More will probably arrive. A former director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service has called invasive species the number one environmental threat to the United States. From what I have read and seen, I agree. Let's hope our national priorities don't belittle this ecological terrorist threat.



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

News from the President

by Stella Miller



Hello all! We have some pretty exciting news to start you off with. The Huntington Audubon Society has changed its name to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS). Since our territory stretches from Centre Island and Oyster Bay in the west to Fort Salonga in the east, the name change more accurately represents the local communities that our chapter members live in and the area which the organization's charter area encompasses. We will be transitioning the new name over in the next few months and reintroducing ourselves in the areas that may not be as familiar with us as they should be. We look forward to continuing to serve ALL of our members!

Next, the Audubon Council of New York State, representing most of New York's 27 chapters met at the Thayer Hotel at West Point during Halloween weekend. Fellow board member, Simone DaRos, and I attended.

On Saturday morning, chapter representatives chose among field trips to Doodletown led by Rockland Audubon Society, Croton Point Park led by Saw Mill River Audubon, or a guided tour of the West Point campus. Later on, we gathered for presentations and workshops by Audubon New York Staff about The Atlantic Flyway Initiative, Audubon New York's strategic plan, and a great program on fundraising. Simone and I participated in the West Point tour and enjoyed it very much. I had never really thought about West Point as a tourist destination, but it was quite beautiful and I recommend visiting if you are ever in the area. Make sure you have ID as security is tight! After the various programs and workshops, dinner and an evening program about the Hudson River followed.

Chapter representatives shared updates and ideas on their current work at the Chapter Roundtables on Sunday morning. I spoke to the roundtable about our various efforts this year, with an emphasis on our Youth Outreach Committee and the Save Our Raptors campaign. I was very honored to be the only presenter to receive a round of applause once finished. That is a testament to the wonderful endeavors that HOBAS has worked so hard to accomplish! After hearing Al Caccese's Executive Director report and an update from the council board, the meeting was adjourned with all looking forward to the Spring Assembly, to take place March 19-23, 2010 at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The week following saw HOBAS hosting the Long Island Fall Council meeting where various Long Island issues were discussed among the seven chapters. One issue, Plum Island, will be the topic of an upcoming article in our next newsletter.

We have excellent news concerning our efforts with the methane flare/landfill/raptor conflict. I have been asked to present a program on this topic at the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) 15th Annual Landfill Symposium and Planning & Management Conference in Reno in April and at the Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations' Federation Spring Conference and Trade Show in Lake George in May. SWANA will be my co-presenter at both events. Never again will I allow someone to say to me, "What can I do? One person cannot make a difference." My answer will be, "Oh yes, you can!" In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." This started as a small grassroots effort that now has national exposure and HOBAS has been instrumental in this. HOBAS is proud to be the leaders on this issue. Our work on landfill burned raptors was discussed at the Dutch Bird Conservation Conference in the Netherlands in November and was also talked about at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival.

We are continuing with our youth initiatives and are proud that three teenagers and pre-teens have recently joined the chapter as members. This is in addition to the three we currently have and we are hoping that as the word spreads, more and more kids will become involved. We are especially proud of our three Youth Outreach Committee members: Brent Bomkamp, Brendan Fogarty, and Vinny Pellegrino. This committee was formed in November 2008 and they have consistently shown up for meetings, projects, and events in the last year.

We are stepping up our conservation efforts and this past year had volunteers taking part in Piping Plover and horseshoe crab monitoring. In the spring, the Youth Outreach Committee will begin a window/bird collision survey of local office parks in order to identify problem buildings and this winter we will begin installing Kestrel nest boxes at key locations. We have partnered with the North Shore Land Alliance and will be monitoring three of their preserves. The Youth Outreach Committee will be installing an osprey platform in Northport this winter, along with cleaning out nest boxes at Caumsett State Historic Park. We have also partnered with a local cat adoption center who will be handing out Keep Your Cats Indoors flyers in every adoption packet. Finally, the American Birding Association has named us a "Conservation Partner," a title we are mighty proud of!

As we head into the New Year, I am proud of the direction that HOBAS is taking as an organization and I am proud of what we have accomplished this past year. I am grateful to you, our members, for continuing to support us and I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy new year!



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 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.

January 2010

Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *The Ecology of Saw-whets in Southeastern NY* with Trudy Battaly and Drew Panko. Saw-whet Owls, the smallest owls in the northeast, are found in our region during fall and winter. Where do they come from? How long do they stay? Will they come back next year? Do they ever stay to breed? Drew and Trudy have some very interesting encounters to share with you, some answers, and many more questions about these wonderful creatures.

Saturday, January 16, 10:30 AM – The River Otters of Long Island Program at the Cold Spring Harbor Library and Field Trip with Mike Bottini. The river otter is a top-of-the-food-chain, semi-aquatic mammal whose populations suffered dramatic declines during the fur trade era. It is an important member of freshwater and estuarine ecosystems, and many states - including New York - have implemented otter re-introduction programs to assist the recovery of extirpated populations. Learn about the ecology and habits of river otters, and the results of a 2008 survey to document their presence on Long Island. This talk should last approximately 1.5 hours. After the presentation, we will drive to an area within 5 miles of the library that is inhabited by otters for a short nature walk to look for their sign and discuss some of the challenges otters face on Long Island.

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

February 2010

Monday, February 1 – Deadline for March-April Killdeer.

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Members' Night.* Members' Night is a long-standing HOBAS tradition where extra time is allotted for chatting and getting to know one another better. 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, photos, or hobby collections, others bring mementos, some share stories or books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable.

Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

March 2010

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Sea Turtles of New York.* Come learn about the biology of sea turtles of New York and what you can do to help protect them. Join a naturalist from the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation as they discuss the different types of marine mammals and sea turtles which are found throughout New York waters and the New York State Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Rescue Program.

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Birders' Box

On October 4, at Hook Mountain Hawk Watch we added Raven to our list. There were Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Kestrels, Merlin, Osprey, Black and Turkey Vultures, Pileated Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, Chimney Swifts, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. But by far the best sighting was a great eye-level view of an adult Bald Eagle flying over.

On October 31, at Constitution Marsh notable birds were Wood and Black Ducks, Green-winged Teals, Great Blue Heron, Ravens, Bald Eagle, and Sora.

The Young Birder's trip to Montauk Point on Saturday, November 21 added 6 new species: Iceland Gull, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Winter Wren, Cackling Goose, White-crowned Sparrow, and Common Eider. Also seen were all three Scoters: Black, White-winged, and Surf, Northern Gannets, Great Cormorant, Bonaparte Gulls, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Tree Sparrow, Killdeer, and Hermit Thrush. 42 species were seen that day.

The next day, a cloudy and very windy day, the Montauk trip for the young at heart also had 42 species. There was much overlap, naturally. Missed Sunday were most of the new species listed above, but the Common Eider was seen. Birds not seen Saturday, but seen on Sunday were Cedar Waxwing, Belted Kingfisher, Dark-eyed Junco, Wood Duck, Common and Red-Throated Loons, American Widgeon, Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks, American Coot, and Song Sparrow.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 190.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington 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.

January 2010

Saturday, January 9, 7:00-9:00 PM – Nocturnal Adventure at Prosser Pines County Nature Preserve, Yaphank. Join us as we explore Prosser Pines in the dark, call for owls and see what we shall see. Wear sturdy shoes since we'll be hiking off-trail in the dark. Bring a flashlight. Leaders: John Turner and Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: LIE (495) to exit 67 North. Head north on Rt 21 (called Yaphank Road, then Main Street in Yaphank, then Yaphank-Middle Island Road). About 2.9 miles from the LIE, you pass the entrance to Cathedral Pines County Park on your left and then Longwood Road on your right. Continue a half-mile further on Rt 21 and turn right into Prosser Pines Preserve parking lot.

Saturday, January 16, 10:30 AM – Biologist Mike Bottini will present program at the Cold Spring Harbor Library on River Otters of Long Island, followed by a walk at a nearby preserve to look for otter signs.

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 AM – Young Naturalist Winter Waterfowl Walk. This field trip is for youths aged 10-18 and their parents or guardians. We will visit Tung Ting Pond, St. John's Pond, and Sunken Meadow State Park searching for waterfowl. Leaders: Vinny Pellegrino and Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Meet at Sunken Meadow Field Three. Take Sunken Meadow Parkway to the park. Then we will travel to Tung Ting Pond and St. John's Pond.

Saturday, January 30, 8:00 AM – Joint Owl Prowl with Hudson River Audubon at Pelham Bay. Pelham Bay Park offers you the best chance to see up to four or more species of owls. Great Horned Owls may be nesting and both Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls may be hiding in the pines. Barn and Barred Owls are occasionally found as well. Views of the Sound should yield a variety of ducks, loons, and grebes. The stadium lights at the southern area

of the park host huge Monk Parakeet nests. Leader: Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Hutchinson River Parkway to the Pelham Bay Park/City Island/Orchard Beach exit. Continue east farther into the park past the traffic circle then veering left to the parking area on Hunters Island. Meet the group there.

February 2010

Sunday, February 21, 9:00 AM – Point Lookout. Look for loons, grebes, and Harlequin ducks which are usually seen on Long Island only at Point Lookout. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: Take the Meadowbrook Parkway to the Loop Parkway. At the end of the Loop Parkway 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.

March 2010

Saturday, March 13, 6:00 PM – Woodcock Walk at Wick's Farm. Meet at the building opposite White Post Farm's parking area on Pulaski Road. The leader will guide birders into the area of Wick's Farm where Woodcocks have been seen displaying. Display occurs at dusk. Bring a flashlight to light your way back to the road. Leaders: Stella Miller and Vinny Pellegrino. Call 516-695-0763 to register. *Rain date March 14 at 7:00 (due to DST).*

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.

Friday, March 26, 7:30 PM – Nocturnal Salamander Safari at West Hills County Park. We will look and listen for spring peepers and wood frogs and look for spotted salamanders. Details in the next *Killdeer* and at www.hobaudubon.org.



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

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January – February 2010



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How Can You Help the Save Our Raptors Campaign?

Many of you have asked us what you can do to help protect raptors at landfills.

First, spread the word to others. Encourage others to visit our website www.hobaudubon.org/saveourraptors, post the information on your Facebook page, join the Save Our Raptors Campaign, submit an article to your neighborhood newspaper, write to your local landfill operator, and support your local wildlife rehabilitators.

Next, consider making a donation to help Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society spread awareness about the issue.

As mentioned in our President's Message, we are excited to announce that we have been invited to present a program on this issue at the 15th Annual Landfill Symposium and Planning & Management Conference in Reno, NV next April and the Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations' Solid Waste and Recycling Conference in Lake George, NY in May. We hope these two conferences are just a start!

We need funding to send a representative to these solid waste industry conferences to educate landfill owners about the unnecessary suffering and deaths of these birds. We also need to produce flyers, brochures, and other publicity pieces for public awareness. We want all landfill operators to support this effort and save our raptors as soon as possible.

Please send contributions to **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, PO Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743**. In the check's memo line, and on the envelope, please indicate that your donation is for the Save Our Raptors Campaign. Since our name has not yet been legally changed to Huntington-Oyster Bay, **make your check out to Huntington Audubon Society**. Thank you so much for your support in our efforts to protect birds of prey from the dangers they face each day at landfills!

Better Bottle Bill Now in Effect



On October 31st (with a grace period until November 8th for stores to comply selling only bottled water that complies with the ruling) the Better Bottle Bill went into effect. All containers of water sold in New York under a gallon in size now have a 5-cent refundable deposit. This law expands the state's 5-cent deposit on beer and soda containers to include water bottles. The new law also requires beverage companies to transfer 80% of the unclaimed deposits they collect to the state, and make other changes to improve and update the program. Finally, the new law will improve the infrastructure for collecting and recycling bottles and cans, making it more convenient for people to return their empty containers.

This is a major grassroots victory, and one that will have huge benefits for New York. Together, these reforms will result in noticeably cleaner communities, higher recycling rates, and new revenue for the state.