Successful Bird Seed Sale
Sharon Brody – Bird Seed Sale Co-chair

Once again, I gratefully wish to thank all those who volunteered for the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society’s annual birdseed sale. Their time and effort helped to make the sale a success.

In the lobby of Huntington High School, Susan Aidala, Simone DaRos, Ginger Mahoney, and Charlotte Miska handled the order forms and sales. Paul Aidala, Marc Brody, Blair Broughton, Rich Edwards, Dan Mahoney, Vinnie Schiappa, and Marty Wenz did the back-breaking job of loading the orders into cars. Thanks to Simone for bringing coffee and snacks in the morning and to Ginger for the delicious hero and salads for lunch.

As always, a special thanks goes to Cathy Fitts for her computer work and to my husband, Marc, for his honey-do work.

I also wish to thank all those who bought seed, tee shirts, and Christmas ornaments. You helped to provide HOBAS with the funds for our programs, scholarships, and education and conservation work.

Editor’s Note: Thank you Sharon for your dedication and hard work to make this important fundraiser a huge success.

Birding and Natural History Field Trip Leaders Needed

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge of birds, nature, and birding hotspots with others? HOBAS is looking for new field trip leaders to join our team. You do not have to be an expert to lead a trip and field trips can cover any aspect of the natural world – not just birds. Volunteer to lead a field trip by sending an e-mail to Patricia Aitken (aitkenpatricia@gmail.com).

Adopt-A-Highway Program

The Pulaski Road, Adopt-A-Highway Program for 2013, concluded on December 1st. There will be a break in the schedule for January and February, but we will resume our monthly highway cleanups in March 2014. A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who have participated in our Adopt-A-Highway Program and we hope to see you as we begin a new cycle of monthly cleanups this spring.

Please consider joining us for our spring cleanups. Share in the camaraderie and fun. For more information please send an e-mail to Simone (s.daros@aol.com).

Cleanups are conducted at 7:30 AM and usually take only about an hour and a half. Meet at the WPW Growers parking lot across from Wicks Farm.

The spring cleanup days are:
- Sunday, March 2
- Sunday, April 6
- Sunday, May 4
- Sunday, June 8

Special thanks also goes to WPW Growers for allowing us to park in their lot.
As we begin a new year, I write this President’s Message with a heavy heart. On November 24, 2013, our beloved Bill Reeves passed away after a long illness. Bill was a HOBAS member since 1962 (we became a chapter in 1961) and has served on our board of directors for over 40 years. His knowledge, dedication, and loyalty to the chapter were truly inspiring and I speak for the entire board when I say that it was an honor to serve on the board with Bill. I am proud to announce that we are establishing the Bill Reeves Scholarship Fund in order to send even more children and teens to nature-based camps than we have done before. It is our small way of demonstrating how much Bill meant to us, to the chapter, and to the cause of conservation of birds on Long Island. Bill was respected and beloved by so many of us and we will truly miss him. For more on Bill, please see Remembering Bill on page 4.

We do have good news to share. The HOBAS Board of Directors recently sat down to discuss a Strategic Plan for 2014 and 2015. In order to strengthen our chapter and move forward, it is important that we revitalize and reinvigorate our chapter activities. In 2013 our accomplishments included the following:

- Leading members of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition
- Continued to monitor river otters as part of the Long Island River Otter Project
- Hired a consultant to conduct a comprehensive botanical survey at Underhill Preserve in Jericho and create a management plan for a restoration project for the preserve
- Conducted two beach cleanups at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge in Lloyd Harbor as well as monthly highway cleanups on Pulaski Road in Huntington
- Conducted English ivy and garlic mustard pulls at Shu Swamp in Mill Neck
- Conducted two service days at Stillwell Woods Preserve in Syosset
- Hosted 12 free monthly public education programs at the Cold Spring Harbor Library
- Sponsored Audubon Adventures in six classrooms and hosted seven children’s programs
- Distributed informational brochures in English and Spanish on keeping cats indoors and connecting children to nature in the community
Provided scholarships for 10 children to attend nature camp at TR Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay and Starflower Experiences in Huntington

Provided scholarships for two young Guatemalan women to attend agro-ecology camp, continue their schooling, and receive training in order to educate younger children about birds and conservation because we recognize that conservation is not just a local concern. “Our” birds spend most of their time in the tropics and it is critical that we protect them along their entire migratory journey.

In addition to continuing these projects and initiatives, in 2014 we will be working with local partners in order to connect more people to nature and promote more wildlife friendly communities. Our plans include installing an osprey platform and building a bird blind at one site, installing native habitat gardens in several sites, and engaging local youth in a beach nesting bird awareness campaign. We will be actively working with the Crab Meadow Watershed Planning Committee in the Northport area and we also will be reaching out to more diverse communities with translated programming and literature. We also will be working to strengthen our board and committees, and to that end, are looking for people that want to become involved, make a difference and help us as we work to protect wildlife and preserve habitat, and instill in people a sense of responsibility and love for nature.

Please reach out to me if you want to become involved and help us strive to meet the goals of our Strategic Plan. I wish you all a very happy New Year!

Crab Meadow Watershed Advisory Committee
Alex McKay

Following a meeting with concerned citizens and environmental groups, including Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS) regarding the flooding of part of the Fuchs Pond Preserve, Huntington Councilman Mark Cuthbertson introduced a resolution establishing a Crab Meadow Watershed Advisory Committee to define stewardship initiatives to protect and preserve the entire Crab Meadow Watershed including 680 protected Town and County acres in the primary watershed area. The proposal passed unanimously in April of 2010 and the committee with representatives from the community, town and county government, and environmental organizations began meeting regularly to develop plans and goals for land use, water resources, habitat and wildlife, and community outreach. Stella Miller represents HOBAS on the Watershed Committee.

The primary Crab Meadow Watershed includes an area roughly from Norwood Avenue on the South, Makamah Road on the east, Waterside Avenue and the western boundary of the LIPA plant on the west, to Long Island Sound on the north. The area contains the protected areas of the Fuchs Pond Preserve, the Jerome Ambro Memorial Wetlands Preserve, the Henry Ingraham Nature Preserve, and the Makamah Nature Preserve, as well as Crab Meadow and Geissler’s Beaches and the Crab Meadow Golf Course. It is a diverse and dynamic area with hardwood forest, salt marsh, sandy beach, and freshwater streams and ponds which provide habitat and food for an amazing variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, insects, fish, and shellfish. The current bird list names 185 species that have been seen in the area, a longtime favorite with birders. In addition, two years ago a road-killed river otter was discovered on Waterside Road, confirming the presence of this species in the area.

Crab Meadow Beach

Among the accomplishments of the committee in the past three years was the replacement of the outfall pipe and weir at Fuchs Pond in cooperation with Suffolk County, receiving an Iroquois Gas and Transmission Grant of $4,000 to purchase data loggers for Trout Unlimited to assess water temperatures and to draft an educational campaign on the values of the watershed, receipt of a Long Island Futures Grant of $58,000 for a Crab Meadow hydrology study and development of a stewardship plan, planning parking and trail signage for the preserves, developing trails guides for the Crab Meadow Beach walking trail, the Fuchs Pond trail, and the Henry Ingraham Preserve. A Crab Meadow Watershed brochure, poster, and website narrative have been prepared describing hydrological processes, wildlife and habitat, and steps individuals can take to help protect and preserve the resources. The Committee recommended and the Town Board renamed the main building at the Fuchs Pond Preserve as the Cranberry Hill Environmental Center. Cranberry Hill was the name of the former estate, a reminder of the cranberry bogs that once checkered the area. (Continued on page 5.)
Remembering Bill
Alex McKay

In Memoriam
William (Bill) Brett Reeves
September 10, 1935 – November 24, 2013

Following graduation from RPI in 1957 as an ROTC officer, Bill became a Navy man and traveled the Pacific area for two years. He remained in the active Naval Reserve and rose to the rank of Captain before retiring in 1991. The early sixties found him in Endicott, New York where he met Pat and they became members of the Tri-Cities Bird Club. Leaving upstate with his new bride, Bill arrived in Huntington in 1962 and worked at Sperry of Great Neck.

Bill was not a charter member of Huntington Audubon, but he might as well have been, joining the new chapter during our first anniversary month in March of 1962. From that time on, the Reeves team of Pat and Bill became active and guiding members for over a half-century. The indefatigable Bill served the society in so many capacities that is difficult to innumerate them all, but let’s give a try.

Bill was involved with drawing the Christmas Count circle for the Northern Nassau Count in 1963 when the chapter began assisting in the count with the Lyman Langdon Audubon Society of Port Washington, and Bill remained the count organizer for Huntington and participated in the count every year until his recent passing. Pat and a group of volunteers provided warm food for the tired and hungry birders at the roundups at the Muttontown Preserve. As field trip coordinator, organizer, and leader over the years, Bill introduced many new and young birders to identification skills that he willingly shared. More recently, Bill was an avid Birdathon participant and a chapter leader in fund raising. Bill was a consummate birder.

I remember one Christmas Count experience with Bill on the Southern Nassau Count. As we drove west on Shore Parkway in the near dawn darkness, I asked Bill at what pole our territory began. He gave me the number and I said, “I guess we can count the snowy owl back there as our first bird.” Whoa! Back we turned. Two years ago, on the same count, Bill and Brent Bonkamp had the good fortune to be nearby when the previously unrecorded Grace’s warbler was spotted in Point Lookout. Off they went! Bill enjoyed mentoring young birders like Brent and earlier young Sean Ince, Tim O’Connor, and David Kunstler. He was also a natural teacher.

As President from 1971 to 1973, Bill led the chapter’s efforts to oppose aerial spraying with the broad spectrum pesticide Sevin for gypsy moth control and he involved Huntington Audubon in joining the Environmental Planning Lobby to support a variety of environmental initiatives such as the formation of Adirondack Park Agency. When National Audubon planned to close the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, Bill was among the leaders in saving the Sanctuary and became chairman of the Board of Management.

One of Bill’s lesser known projects was beginning the revision of the chapter’s constitution, a time consuming and undramatic exercise that was necessary to the realization of tax-exempt status and reduced mailing rates. Bill was always present at Bird Seed Savings Days, Nature Awareness Day, and participated in developing the Town’s Open Space Index and the Audubon sponsored town-wide Wildlife Survey. Most recently, Bill was serving as HOBAS’ representative on the Town’s Open Space, Parks, and Environment Committee (EOSPA) recommending land acquisitions, park improvements, and neighborhood enhancements to the Town Board. He remained a member of HOBAS’ Board of Directors.
**Remembering Bill (continued from page 4)**

Bill was active in the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs (now the New York State Ornithological Society). He served as HOBAS representative to the Federation as was a board member and treasurer for many years. He involved HOBAS and participated in the Breeding Bird Atlas projects and the annual Waterfowl Census. In 2009, he was awarded the Dr. Gordon Meade Distinguished Service Award for his efforts.

One year shy of fifty-years as members of what is now the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS), Bill and Pat served on the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, wrote the fifty-year history for the dinner program, and Bill served as MC to introduce speakers and honored guests. Bill’s history in itself is the history of HOBAS.

On his memorial card at Nolan’s Funeral Home in Northport was printed, *Grieve not...nor speak of me with tears...*but laugh and *talk of me...as though I were beside you. I loved you so...* ‘twas Heaven here with you.

And with you too, Bill. You will be more than missed.

**Crab Meadow (continued from page 3)**

The Town has contracted with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to manage the Summer Sea Star Marine Camp which participated in creating a permanent Crab Meadow Watershed Mural under the direction of Brazilian artist Luciennne Pereira at the Cranberry Hill Environmental Center. The Town has also acquired property along Makamah Road to provide parking for access to the northern trail of the Makamah Preserve. Other projects include beach cleanups, controlling invasive species, analyzing marsh core samples, a trial aerial survey using balloons and kites, and establishing elevation markers in the Ambro Preserve to gauge water levels. Ongoing projects include establishing a website, completing a Bio-Diversity Study, a river otter survey, redesign of Geissler’s Beach parking and repair of rockwork, and parking at the Ingraham Preserve.

The New York Department of State has designated the Crab Meadow Wetlands as “Significant Coastal and Wildlife Habitat.” Utilizing funding from the $58,000 Long Island Futures Fund Grant, the Town has contracted with GEI Consultants of Huntington Station to conduct a comprehensive hydrology study and draft a stewardship plan to guide management practices and decisions for the watershed. After meeting with the consultants, the Crab Meadow Watershed Advisory Committee and GEI have begun planning an initial [community forum](#) (one of three required by the contract) which will be held on **Thursday, January 23, from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Northport Public Library**. Plan to attend to learn more about this exciting initiative.

HOBAS looks forward to active involvement including providing volunteers for river otter and bird surveys and a [Be a Good Egg Campaign](#) in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension to bring about awareness of beach nesting birds and providing scholarships for children to attend the Summer Sea Star Marine Camp. *(See page 8 for more information about the Be a Good Egg Campaign.)*

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**The Bill Reeves Scholarship Fund**

HOBAS is proud to announce the establishment of The Bill Reeves Scholarship Fund in order to send under-served children and youth to nature-based camps. Offering scholarships to these children allows them to discover a whole new world, one they may not have ever experienced if not given a chance such as this. By providing opportunities for kids to discover and explore the wonders of nature, we hope to help foster the next generation of conservationists, for young people who grow up spending time in nature are more likely to become strong advocates for the environment. This is critical in order to ensure that the land, water, and wildlife legacy we have worked to conserve continues to benefit future generations.

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society Board of Directors was proud and honored to serve with Bill Reeves and in his name we hope to nurture the next generation to carry on our mission of protecting wildlife and preserving habitat.

If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please send your donation to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, PO Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743. Please be sure to write "scholarship fund" in the subject line of your check. Thank you for your support.
Meetings and Events

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. The program starts promptly at 7:30. For full program descriptions as well as speaker biography, please go to www.hobaudubon.org.

Wednesday, January 8, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Creatures of the Sea – from the Wacky to the Wonderful with Todd Gardner. Why don’t fish get crushed under the pressure of the deep sea? How can whales hold their breath for so long? Why do sharks really attack people? In which species does the male become pregnant and carry the babies? These and many other questions will be answered as we spotlight some well-known, as well as some underappreciated marine creatures and their remarkable adaptations that make them so fascinating to us. Todd Gardner is a biologist at the Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead, NY and a professor of Biology at Suffolk County Community College.

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

Monday, February 3 – Deadline for the March-April Killdeer.

Wednesday, February 12, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Movie Night – Hummingbirds, Magic in the Air. These tiny marvels dazzle and delight bird watchers all over the world, and tonight’s documentary reveals their incredible abilities. Movie starts at 7 sharp!

Wednesday, February 19, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Birders’ Box

October 27 – Dune Road. Five others joined Blair Broughton on a bird trip that featured many stops along the road on the barrier island. Besides numerous gulls and double-crested cormorants, a Forster’s tern and sandpipers were seen along the ocean side. On the bay side, great blue herons, great egrets, a snowy egret, and a lesser yellowlegs were seen. Also seen were a turkey vulture, a merlin, a northern harrier, golden-crowned kinglets, song sparrows, juncos, and yellow-rumped warblers.

November 10 – Bayard Cutting Arboretum. Blair Broughton and 17 other birder/hikers were slightly disappointed to find out our destination had changed to winter hours and wouldn’t open until 10 AM. So they rushed off to Connetquot State Park to wait. There they saw gadwalls, green-winged teals, ring-necked ducks, hooded mergansers, buffleheads, and wood ducks. Back at the Arboretum, things were a lot quieter, but we were rewarded with a flock of cedar waxwings gorging on berries and a red-tailed hawk soaring low overhead.

December 8 – Montauk and South Fork. Sharon Brody and a small group had nice weather which resulted in seeing 56 species, the highlight being 2 snowy owls. Other rarities were tundra swan, glaucous, Iceland, and lesser-black backed gulls. Other notable sightings included red-throated loon, all three scoters, common eider, great cormorant, merlin, wild turkey, and snow buntings.

Species seen on 2013 HOBAS trips: 164

HOBAS Membership Form

For $20 a year you can be a member of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. Your membership will help support conservation efforts, and educational and youth programs. As a member you will receive our newsletter, an open invitation to our monthly guest lectures, field trips, and events, along with special member’s only discounts and events.

Please fill out this form and mail with your check payable to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

Name
Address
City
State Zip
e-Mail

HOBAS never sells or shares your personal information.

Thank you!
FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Field trips are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Newcomers are welcome. Binoculars are advised. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. 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. 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. Call the leader if in doubt about the weather. For the comfort and safety of all participants, there is no smoking on field trips.

Capri Lake and Captree State Park

Sunday, January 12, 9 AM. An assortment of winter waterfowl and maybe even some monk parakeets should be found at this little known hot spot in West Islip. Later, a short drive to Captree to see what winter visitors await in the State Park. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.

Directions: Take either Robert Moses Parkway or 231 south to Montauk Highway. Capri Lake is about a mile west of Robert Moses or a mile east of 231. We will meet in a small office parking lot on the northwest corner of Montauk Highway and Barberry Road

North Shore Winter Waterfowl Hot Spots

Saturday, January 18, 10 AM.

Long Island can be one of the best places in the country to watch winter waterfowl. Join us for a fun day to see as many of these species as possible and learn about their interesting life histories. We will meet at Upland’s Farm Preserve and caravan to various spots. Leaders: Brent Bomkamp and Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: From the LIE, take Exit 45 (Woodbury-Manetto Hill exit) and bear right at the end of the exit ramp onto Manetto Hill Road. Go 0.2 mile and turn right onto Woodbury Road. Proceed 3.4 miles and turn left onto Harbor Road (Route 108). Go 1.6 miles and turn right uphill onto Lawrence Hill Road. Proceed 0.4 miles and turn right into the Uplands Farm entrance. Proceed to the end of the split rail fence and turn left just before the barn. Park in the parking area or beside it in the grassy field.

South Shore Duck Walk

Saturday, February 1, 9 AM. Meet at Massapequa Preserve. We’ll also visit Belmont Lake State Park, and other lakes along the south shore in search of wintering waterfowl. Leader: Sharon Brody. Call 516-433-5590 to register.

Directions: Meet at the Massapequa Preserve entrance at Pittsburgh Avenue and Parkside Blvd.

Point Lookout

Sunday, February 9, 9 AM. Look for loons, grebes, and the beautiful harlequin duck. Point Lookout is known as the best and most reliable spot to see this showy duck. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.

Directions: 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. Meet by the gate to the park.

Peconic Duneland, Beach, and Forest Ramble

Saturday, March 1, 10 AM. We will explore a unique maritime environment on Long Island Sound that features sand dunes and swales, dwarfed oaks, and sphagnum bogs. Wear shoes suitable for walking distances in sand and climbing a few steep (but short) hills. Bring lunch. Leader: Louise Harrison. Group size limited to 15. Call Stella Miller (516-695-0763) to register.


Volunteers Needed

Bird Surveys at Caumsett State Park

A habitat restoration project is taking place at Caumsett State Park. We need volunteers to conduct bird surveys beginning in March to determine habitat needs.

Please contact Stella Miller at 516-695-0763 or stella.miller63@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping out.

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

January – February 2014

Be a Good Egg NJ/NY
Share the beach with nesting birds.

HOBAS will be partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension during the summer of 2014 to engage children attending their Sea Stars Marine Camp at the Cranberry Hill Environmental Center, Fuch's Preserve, Northport in a Be a Good Egg Campaign, an Audubon New York project. The Be a Good Egg campaign utilizes public education, social marketing, and citizen science to decrease threats to beach-nesting birds. Tens of thousands of birds rely on New York and New Jersey’s beaches and barrier islands for their survival, and the Be a Good Egg campaign works with area beach-goers to encourage them to share the beach with beach-nesting birds. Species like the piping plover, least tern, and American oystercatcher nest directly on the beach and face a myriad of threats each year from predators, extreme weather conditions, and human disturbance, which contribute to population declines. Look for more details and volunteer opportunities in upcoming issues of the Killdeer.

For more information on Be a Good Egg, please visit http://ny.audubon.org/newsroom/news-stories/2013/beach-goers-reminded-be-good-egg.

For more information on the Sea Stars Marine Camp please visit http://ccesuffolk.org/sea-stars-marine-camp.

Wildlife Viewing Ethics

This winter we are experiencing an unusually large snowy owl irruption. For those who may not already know, these birds typically stay very close to the Arctic Circle even in the winter. A good breeding year, combined with a food shortage come winter, results in the birds traveling far south of their breeding grounds as they seek food. Typically the birds arriving are young, inexperienced and surviving on depleted reserves. They now have to stay alive, and eat enough so that they can make it back to their spring and summer homes at the end of the winter. With that in mind, it’s time to remind people about proper wildlife observation ethics.

Please see our blog, It's Not Your Mother's Audubon, http://birdingtng.blogspot.com/2012_03_01_archive.html for tips on how you can be an ethical wildlife watcher.