Birdseed Sale Success!
Sharon Brody, Birdseed Sale Co-chair

Our annual birdseed sale on Saturday, November 8, was again, a success. It is our most important fundraiser of the year. The sale would not have been successful if not for our wonderful volunteers and the purchasers of our birdseed. Thank you!

Our volunteers were exceptional. Cathy Fitts, as usual, did an outstanding job with the data entry. Special thanks goes to Simone DaRos and Charlotte Miska who helped with the time-consuming task of compiling the order forms and placing the birdseed order while I was out of the country. Marc Brody, Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Rich Edwards, Dave Papayanopoulos, Vinnie Schiappa, and Marty Wenz, worked in the parking lot of Huntington High School loading the seed orders into the cars. Cathy Fitts, Charlotte Miska, and Rosemarie Papayanopoulos worked the tables inside the school’s lobby. A kiss goes to my husband Marc for being my go-fer and for calming me down when problems arose. To all, thank you, again!

Editor’s Note: It takes a master organizer to run a successful birdseed sale. Sharon makes it look easy due to her dedication, attention to detail, and hours of hard work. Thank you Sharon for making HOBAS’s biggest fundraiser a success.

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 info@hobaudubon.org.

Inside This Issue
- Out on a Limb ........................................ 2
- From the President .................................. 3
- Audubon Dues ....................................... 4
- NYS Audubon Council Meeting, Birders’ Box ... 5
- Meetings and Events ............................... 6
- Field Trips and Activities ............................ 7
- Duck Stamp .......................................... 8

Adopt-A-Highway Program
Our dedicated volunteers completed their 2014 monthly cleanups of the one-mile stretch of Pulaski Road in Huntington on December 7. Thank you to everyone who gave back to the community by ensuring this beautiful stretch of road is kept clean.

The adopt-a-highway idea started in Texas in 1986 with a campaign called Don’t Mess with Texas. Similar programs have spread to all 50 states and was even featured in a Seinfeld episode when Kramer announced he was a proud parent of a one-mile stretch of the fictional Arthur Berkhardt Expressway.

There are no cleanups in January and February. Cleanups will resume on Sunday, March 8 at 8:00 AM and should take about an hour and a half. Meet at the WPW Growers parking lot across from Wicks Farm. Additional dates will be in the next Killdeer and also posted on hobaudubon.org.

Please consider joining us for our spring cleanups. Share in the camaraderie and fun and it is good exercise! For more information please send an e-mail to Simone (s.daros@aol.com).
Out on a Limb
Alex McKay

The monarchs have been returning to their mountain forests in central Mexico. The traditional arrival date for wintering monarch butterflies in central Mexico was November 1, coinciding with the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) and the corn harvest. To the local population, the monarchs symbolize ancestors’ souls returning to earth for their annual visit. Families gather at cemeteries and favorite meals of the departed are prepared. Children are treated with calaveras de azúcar, candy skulls. The bright colors and fragrance of flowers guide the returning souls. The return of the mariposas is eagerly awaited.

Monarchs return to El Cerrito Forest

On October 30, 2014 at about 6:35 PM three monarch butterflies were seen in the El Cerrito forest in central Mexico, the first migrants of the season to appear in their wintering habitat and cause for celebrating. By November 2, over 10,000 butterflies had settled into the nearby Sierra Chincua Sanctuary. Migration sightings from Minnesota to Texas have shown good numbers of monarchs moving south. Roost reports to Journey North, the clearing house for monarch information, were almost triple those of last year. Large concentrations heading across Texas and entering Mexico have raised hopes for a population comeback after last year’s lowest wintering population on record.

Favorable weather conditions for the northward migration, efforts to plant milkweed and establish waystations with nectaring plants, and a rising awareness and concern for the dwindling monarch numbers contributed to the apparently successful breeding season. Final wintering numbers will not be in for a couple of months, but it seems the winter of 2014-2015 will see a more bountiful population. The monarchs are rebounding. Get the latest reports at journeynorth.org.

Editor’s Note: HOBAS volunteers under the direction of Stella Miller have been working in Stillwell Woods to remove invasive species and plant milkweed. Please see President’s Message on page 3 for more information.
From the President
Stella Miller

The Year in Review:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon in 2014

Happy New Year to all of our wonderful supporters and friends! As we move forward into the New Year, I want to take a moment to catch you up on some of our efforts from the past year. None of these would have been possible without your remarkable support and I want to thank each and every one of you!

Sharing Our Beaches with Threatened Birds
Awareness Campaign

In March, HOBAS hosted a workshop as part of Audubon New York's "Be a Good Egg" campaign. Youngsters learned about beach nesting birds with an interactive program, where they tested their knowledge and learned how interesting, important, and imperiled these birds are. After the program, the kids turned artsy and created posters which were made into signs and posted at Hobart Beach in Northport to educate the public and help protect the birds’ nesting grounds. Over the summer we hosted two Awareness Days at Hobart, educating the public about beach nesting birds. Educating children about birds is a great start. Allowing them to help protect birds by giving them an opportunity to make a real difference offers them ownership of conservation efforts and a sense of accomplishment. These kids were not just making a craft to be taken home and eventually discarded; they were making a difference in the lives of birds and they understood this. We hope to expand this program into a broader conservation through art effort and look forward to growing this campaign in 2015.

Restoration Project at Shu Swamp
We continue to document the return of spring ephemeral wildflowers in the area where we have been pulling English ivy. In addition, we have observed a noticeable decrease in the amount of garlic mustard growing in the preserve. While there are other non-native plant species in Shu, we are focusing on these two species to determine if long-term efforts will pay off.

Funding a Native Pollinator Garden at
Former Exxon Mobile Site

We are sponsoring a native pollinator garden at the North Shore Land Alliance's grassland restoration site in Cold Spring Harbor. Ground breaking will be in the spring. We hope to continue to sponsor native gardens such as this within our chapter territory to help provide habitat for wildlife as well as to educate the public on the importance of going native!

Grassland Restoration at
Underhill and Stillwell Woods Preserves

In 2014, we hired a consultant to conduct a comprehensive survey and mapping of the non-native invasive plant species at Underhill Preserve in Jericho. This report, along with management recommendations provided to us by our other paid consultants, has been submitted to the NYSDEC, the property owners. Over in Syosset, we have been working with Nassau County to restore grassland and meadow habitat at Stillwell Woods Preserve. Our fantastic volunteers, the Habitat Heroes, worked over 500 collective hours between June and October, pulling non-native invasive plant species and planting pilot areas of milkweed seed. In the spring, we will plant milkweed plugs to increase our chances of success in these plots. We also hired a consultant to make recommendations for
From the President (Continued)
management of the field and hope to raise major funding to implement these recommendations in 2015.

Global Efforts – Guatemalan Scholarships
Conservation is a global effort. We are in our third year of providing scholarships for two young Guatemalan women to attend agro-ecology camp, continue their schooling, and receive training so that they can educate children about birds. “Our” birds spend a significant amount of time in the tropics and it is critical that we protect them along their entire migratory journey by educating local people that can have significant impact on whether or not birds have a strong starting point as they begin their treks north. We are working on creating a page on our website dedicated to this initiative. Keep an eye out in 2015.

Regional Efforts – Preserving Plum Island
As founding members of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition, which now boasts over 55 organizations, we are active in efforts to preserve the island from development. The latest news: the NYSDEC has allocated funding for the NY Natural Heritage to conduct an extensive field inventory on Plum Island in 2015.

Education, Awareness, and Advocacy
Education and advocacy are critical components of our work. From various partnerships, such as the Long Island Clean Water Partnership, Community Cloud Forest Conservation, and the Herring Alliance, to outreach to groups such as the Long Island Flyers and homeowners associations, we continually educate and advocate about wildlife and habitat. In addition, our newly updated website is easier to navigate and provides comprehensive information and resources. Our volunteer corps has grown in leaps and bounds and our prestigious speaker programs, field trips, and volunteer events educate, inspire, and connect people to our natural world.

If you haven’t joined us yet at one of our events or programs, please do. We would love to see you! If you are interested in joining a committee or our board of directors, please reach out to me. I would love to hear from you! And finally, best wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy New Year. I truly hope it is a wonderful one for all of you.

National Membership vs Chapter Membership
Where Does the Money Go?
Audubon offers two types of membership: National and Chapter. If you are a National member, you are assigned a chapter based on your zip code and you will receive Audubon magazine. The first year you are a member, your dues will go to your assigned chapter, but every year after that your dues goes to National. National then provides local chapters with an annual lump sum based on a formula developed in 2005. As a Chapter member, you choose the chapter you want to belong to and all your dues money goes to support that chapter’s programs and activities.

Students enjoying a look at a male Summer Tanager
Nature Camp Scholarships
Children who play outside have better self-esteem, enhanced brain development, are more creative and curious, and possess a sense of connectedness to the environment, as well as well as their communities. Exposure to the outdoors is vital in the development of a healthy, smart, and well-rounded child and also fosters a sense of responsibility and passion for our natural world. In 2014 we sponsored 14 scholarships for underserved children to attend nature camp at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center and Sea Stars Marine Camp in Northport. To help raise funds as we work to send even more children each year, we have established the Bill Reeves Scholarship Fund, in memory of our beloved late board member, Bill Reeves.

National Membership vs Chapter Membership
Where Does the Money Go?
Audubon offers two types of membership: National and Chapter. If you are a National member, you are assigned a chapter based on your zip code and you will receive Audubon magazine. The first year you are a member, your dues will go to your assigned chapter, but every year after that your dues goes to National. National then provides local chapters with an annual lump sum based on a formula developed in 2005. As a Chapter member, you choose the chapter you want to belong to and all your dues money goes to support that chapter’s programs and activities.
Audubon Council of New York State
Fall Meeting 2014
Simone DaRos

The New York State Audubon Council Meeting was held on October 17-19 in Mayville, N.Y. Stella Miller and I were in attendance representing Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society and were among 15 other NYS Audubon chapters. Audubon Council of New York presented a robust and interesting agenda for the weekend.

Erin Crotty, Executive Director, Audubon New York (ANY), greeted attendees with announcements and updates. Erin discussed the Piping Plover lawsuit challenging the Fire Island dune-construction plan and made reference to several recent articles related to this topic. ANY staffing changes were outlined and several new staffers were welcomed and chapter representatives were greeted.

Sean Mahar, Director of Government Relations, spoke about Audubon New York’s focus on actively aligning its policy work in support of shaping a healthy climate and clean energy future. He discussed improving energy planning and siting to minimize impacts on priority birds and landscapes and how this is a priority for Audubon New York. In addition, ANY supports climate policy solutions, efficiency policies, and renewable energy initiatives. Sean encouraged chapter leaders and others to refer to the ANY website for more information as we begin to build future discussions to inspire the public around shaping a healthy climate and making a clean energy decisions for the future.

Next on the agenda came the chapter roundtables where all of the chapters provided a 3-minute overview on one or two chapter highlights. HOBAS was proud to tell about our wonderful volunteers and the restoration efforts being made at Stillwell Woods Preserve and Underhill Preserve. Chapters outlined the nature of their efforts and cumulatively, it is clear, that Audubon chapters are hard at work making positive impacts in their communities and beyond.

Attendees were treated to a tour of the Jamestown Audubon Center and Sanctuary. Ruth Lundin, President, and David Gordin, President of Buffalo Audubon Society, helped to coordinate a visit to this beautiful facility with 5 miles of trails situated on a 600-acre wetland preserve. After the visit, we had an opportunity to visit the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. Inside, Audubon visitors were treated to views of many of Peterson’s authentic pieces of artwork and were able to view behind the scenes archives of camera equipment and ornithological study skins. Visiting both sites made for an educational highlight of the weekend.

Several chapters presented on managing for invasive species. The hemlock woolly adelgid, water chestnut, emerald ash borer, and phragmites were the prime invasive species that were addressed. Mike Berger, Director of Conservation and Science ANY, spoke about a range of topics related to natural resources and conservation. He highlighted information pertaining to workshops being held for loggers, a possible increase in money for forest stewards, a workshop for landowners where Golden-winged Warblers and Bobolink are found, the Atlantic Flyway – Sharing Our Seas and Shores, the Be a Good Egg Program, and For the Birds! program.

The enthusiasm during the council meeting for fostering Audubon’s mission, which is; to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity, was ever present during the Fall Audubon Council Meeting. We are looking forward to the Spring 2015 Council Meeting, March 20-22 in Saratoga Springs, NY.
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 14, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. The Turtle with the Clown Lips: Diamondback Terrapins with John Turner. Believed to be the only turtle in the world that lives exclusively in brackish water, the Diamondback Terrapin is an iconic reptile. This program will explore the natural and cultural history of this fascinating turtle, the threats it faces and some of the solutions being set forth to protect it. John Turner currently serves as the Open Space Program Coordinator for the Town of Brookhaven. He is the author of Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Nature Guide to Long Island which is now in its second edition and a children’s book on the water cycle entitled Waylon’s Wandering Waterdrop. He is the author of several dozen articles on a variety of natural history and environmental topics and his work has appeared in Defenders, Birder’s World, Winging It, and The Conservationist. He also is President and co-founder of Alula Birding & Natural History Tours, a tour company dedicated to connecting people with the natural world that surrounds them.

Wednesday, January 21, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Monday, February 9 – Deadline for the March-April Killdeer.

Wednesday, February 11, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. A Special Documentary Screening: An Original DUCKumentary. Ducks are true originals. They waddle, glide, dive, and dabble, and their feathers shimmer with dazzling hues, brilliant iridescence, and come in every color of the rainbow. There are more than 120 different species of ducks in all, a fantastical group of complex characters with names to match – Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Pintails, Shovelers, Widgeons, and Woodies. Take to the skies with a flock of Green-winged Teal. Watch Wood Ducks raise a family. Learn why Goldeneyes head north in the winter. Jump into South American rapids with Torrent Ducks. Meet some Redhead ducklings and their foster mother. Dive with little Ruddies and admire their enormous feet. Join us and enjoy this delightful film. Popcorn will be served.

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

Wednesday, March 11, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. The Coyotes are Coming with Michael Bottini. The coyote (Canis latrans) has greatly expanded its range in North America over the last century, and it is now found in every state except Hawaii and every Canadian province. Long Island is now one of the few large land masses in the continental U.S. without a breeding population of coyotes. But wildlife biologists think that will change soon. Mike Bottini is a veteran naturalist, outdoor educator, and environmental consultant. He has taught field ecology, environmental science, and natural history courses at St. Lawrence University, Southampton College, and CUNY, has published three books, and is an award-winning columnist.

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**

Go to [hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org) for detailed trip descriptions.

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 11, 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, we will take 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 Causeway or Route 231 south to Montauk Highway. Capri Lake is about a mile west from Robert Moses or a mile east from Route 231. We will meet in a small office parking lot on the northwest corner of Montauk Highway and Barberry Road.

---

**Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Sunday, January 18, 9 AM.** A 179-acre Westchester County Park on Long Island Sound in Rye, NY with a nature center and trails through many habitats, including deciduous and bamboo forests, meadows, marsh wetlands, tidepools, vernal pools, rocky and sandy beach, and lake shorelines. Designated an Important Bird Area, we will be looking for sea ducks, loons, grebes, wintering sparrows, and other songbirds as well as raptors. **Leader:** Coby Klein. Call 585-880-0915 to register.

**Directions:** Take the Throgs Neck Bridge to I95 N, take exit 19 (Playland Parkway), continue on Playland Parkway into the park. Go left after the traffic circle and we’ll meet at the entrance to the parking lot and head back to the sanctuary together.

---

**South Shore Ponds Duck Walk**

**Sunday, February 15, 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.

---

**Montauk Point and the South Fork**

**Saturday, February 28, 9 AM.** Winter waterfowl abound including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks. In addition we will keep an eye out for gulls and other birds. **Leader:** Sharon Brody. Call 516-433-5590 to register.

**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.

---

**Croton Point Park**

**Sunday, March 1, 9 AM.** Bald Eagles can be found here in winter as well as many hawks. We will also look for elusive Short-eared Owls. Waterfowl in area include Scaup, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.

**Directions:** Take Route 9 to Croton Point Avenue exit; follow signs.

---

**River Otter Adventure**

**Sunday, March 29, 10 AM.** Join us today as biologist Mike Bottini leads us on a field trip to look for evidence of one of our most elusive creatures, and Long Island's favorite comeback kid, the river otter! The location to be determined, but it will be somewhere on the North Shore between Fort Salonga and Oyster Bay. Please check the March issue of the Killdeer and the website for details. **Co-leader:** Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

---

[www.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org)
Duck Stamp

In December, the Senate approved by voice vote a measure to amend the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934 to increase the price of the stamps from $15 to $25 and also require that the extra $10 go to conservation easement purchases on private land. Revenue from the first $15 can be spent on land acquisition. This bill also exempts Alaska Native subsistence hunters from required Duck Stamps or permits needed to hunt migratory waterfowl. The House passed the same bill in late November. The bill was presented to President Obama for signature on December 8.

Unlike with most price increases, groups representing the people who will pay the higher cost are praising the move, mainly because 98 cents of every dollar collected are earmarked to purchase or lease wetland habitat. Senator David Vitter (R-La) said, “This bipartisan legislation is a real victory for sportsmen and conservation. It's a straightforward bill that updates the fee paid by duck hunters for a duck stamp for the first time since 1991. And that's a big win for the hunters; it's a big win for conservation.”

The annual Federal Duck Stamp had a face value of $1 in 1934, jumped to $2 in 1949, and to $3 in 1959. In 1972 the price increased to $5, then up to $7.50 in 1979, $10 in 1987, $12.50 in 1989, and to $15 in 1991.

Since 1934, sales of Federal Duck Stamps have generated more than $800 million, which has been used to purchase or lease over 6 million acres of wetlands habitat in the United States. These lands are protected in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System.

Waterfowl are not the only wildlife to benefit from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. Numerous other bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian species that rely on wetlands have prospered. Further, an estimated one-third of the nation’s endangered and threatened species find food or shelter in refuges established using Federal Duck Stamp funds.

The Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges.

Federal Duck Stamps are sold in many post offices and at many national wildlife refuges, sporting goods stores, and outdoor stores. You can also purchase them online at http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm.