

The Huntington Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

March - April 2007

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

The 107th Christmas Bird Count

Although Saturday, December 23, 2006 started with light rain, participants from Huntington Audubon and North Shore Audubon took part in the world's largest citizen science project - the 107th Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The Northern Nassau County count is one of thousands of groups that counted birds across the western hemisphere for one day between December 14 and January 5. Each area can choose the day they want to conduct their count. Northern Nassau County covers the territory from Manhasset Bay to Lloyd Harbor, Long Island Sound to Hicksville and is divided into 15 areas or circles. A total of 23,454 individual birds comprising 98 species were counted and 125 hours were logged by the 54 counters. Although the individual number of birds was slightly up from last year's total of 23,315, the number of species was down from last year's 102 species. Canada Geese once again topped the list with 4,808 and Greater Scaup was second with 4,452. Single sightings included Eurasian Widgeon, Redhead, Virginia Rail, and American Woodcock. (For a complete list, visit the National Audubon Society's website - www.audubon.org.)

The day's statistics were compiled at a supper at the Bill Paterson Nature Center in Muttontown Preserve. North Shore and Huntington alternate providing the food and this year it was North Shore's turn. Supper and conversation were enjoyed before the count compilation where Mary Normandia of North Shore goes through the checklist of birds and a member of each count circle reports their numbers.

The CBC is great way to be part of an international

research project and escape the hectic pace of the holiday season for a day, while enjoying nature and the company of like-minded people. Plan to join us next December. You do not have to be an experienced birder to participate. Act locally to make a global difference for science and bird conservation.

Week-long Watch Report

Last year Huntington Audubon experimented with two week-long watches hoping to see Woodcocks the first week and Bobolinks the second. The timing was right for both as the target birds were seen each week. Weather conditions seemed to affect the success of any one given day's sightings as well as attendance.

For the Woodcock viewing, a total of 52 participants attended. The birds were seen nightly with more birds on evenings that were clear and not too windy. One moonlit evening the Woodcocks were just a few feet away from us, and then they began their mating displays. We had wonderful views.

Mother Nature was not kind the week of the Bobolink watch. Rain interfered either at the hours we planned to be there or heavy rain beforehand soaked the grassy areas the birds like to forage in, so hardly any birds bothered to stop by. On the clear days as many as 15 to 20 birds were spotted in the field and the trees. Despite poor weather, 10 participants got good views of the Bobolinks.

This year the **Woodcock watch** will be **March 11 - 17** and the **Bobolink watch** **May 6 - 11**. Come join us for these special events. *See the Field Trip schedule for details.*



Don't forget - Huntington Audubon meetings are now held at the new **Cold Spring Harbor Library**.

March Program

Wednesday, March 14
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

In Search of the Jaguar

World renowned big cat expert and author Dr. Alan Rabinowitz has worked with tigers, leopards, and jaguars all over the world. Among his notable achievements were creating the world's first jaguar preserve in Cockscomb Basin, Belize and the world's largest tiger reserve in Myanmar. In 2004, he was featured in the National Geographic special, *In Search of the Jaguar*. We are honored to have Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, whom *The New York Times* has called "The Indiana Jones of Zoology", as our special guest this evening.

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.

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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.
E-mail us at **has@huntingtonaudubon.org**.

Featured Volunteers - Paul and Susan Aidala

For the last four years or so, you've probably seen Paul and Susan Aidala at our members meetings, but they are long time supporters of Huntington Audubon. Both come from families that fed birds, so they followed that tradition when they married. Later they discovered the Huntington Audubon Bird Seed Sale and have been buying seed at it for over 15 years. Susan says watching birds at their feeder gives them feelings of peace and calm, washing away tension as well as providing occasional laughs. Family, work responsibilities, and gardening kept their Audubon connection limited but strong.

When their children were grown and a bit more time was available, they started attending HAS meetings very regularly. Susan, who is an accountant, says she enjoys the meetings and has learned a lot from them. They have gone on several field trips, yet they claim they still have much to learn about identifying birds. Last spring they also participated in the Birdathon, so they got to see much more than what is attracted to their feeders and yard. Presently, they are redoing their yard to attract even more butterflies and birds, another sign of their commitment to Audubon causes. The changes they've made thus far are working.

Both the Aidalas enjoy the outdoors, specially gardening. Susan and Paul, an aeronautical engineer, have been a great help to us at Wicks Farm. They are among the volunteers who most consistently show up to work there. They report they like being there enjoying the work itself, the peaceful surroundings, the companionship of other volunteers, and the wildlife they see there.

They are working on passing on traditions. For their first grandson's first birthday, they gave him a book about birds that has buttons to press that give the bird's call. There's hope for the future.

We are very grateful for the time and energy they devote to working at Wicks. We appreciate their support and enjoy their company at our meetings and activities. When you think about it, they exemplify the motto "think globally, act locally". Still working, still learning about birds and the environment, we look forward to sharing our common interests with Susan and Paul for many years to come.



About the Board of Directors

As noted in the introduction of our Meetings and Activities page, Board of Directors meetings are open to all Huntington Audubon members and board delegates are expected to attend. Yet even people who are active in HAS say they don't know much about the board. Here's a little primer.

Officers are elected for one-year terms and can be re-elected as often as they are willing to serve. Most presidents serve at least two years and fortunately some functions such as treasurer have been filled by the same person for more than five years. Continuity is most helpful and highly valued. Directors serve three-year terms with a group of five elected each year. They may be re-elected as long as they are willing to serve. You can be both a director and an officer, but officers need not be directors. Directors are expected to attend Board meetings regularly and as many membership meetings as possible. Decisions are by a majority of those present unless the HAS constitution requires a different number, a very limited number of cases.

Usually Board members are active on committees with many Board members participating in several committees. You need not be a Board member to be on a committee and we strongly urge participation by non-Board members to become active on committees. We are very pleased with the support some committees get when volunteers are called on for particular projects. Refreshments, the Bird Seed Sale, the *Killdeer*, the Christmas Bird Count, and Wicks Farm all depend on many hands to make light work. If you want to have fun and support Huntington Audubon by joining a committee contact the chair person. We value your time, energy, talents, and camaraderie.

Presently the roster looks like this:

Officers 2006-2007 (one-year term):

- President** Ginger Mahoney
- First Vice President** Blair Broughton
- Second Vice President** Stella Miller
- Recording Secretary** Louise Hublitz
- Treasurer** Petie Szabo

Directors whose term ends in 2007:

Sharon Brody, Cathy Fitts, Stella Miller, and Vinnie Schiappa.

Directors whose term ends in 2008:

Blair Broughton, Alice Del Bosco, Jerry Hannon, Maria Kelly, and Bill Reeves.

Directors whose term ends in 2009:

Louise Hublitz, Dick Furman, Ginger Mahoney, Petie Szabo, and Simone Daros.

Committee Chairs:

- Birdathon** Louise Hublitz and Bob May
- Birdseed Sale** Sharon Brody and Cathy Fitts
- Conservation** Jerry Hannon
- Education** Louise Hublitz and Ginger Mahoney
- Field Trips** Maria Kelly
- Fundraising** Simone Daros and Stella Miller
- Hospitality** Simone Daros
- Killdeer** Maria Kelly and Charlotte Miska
- Membership** Rosemarie Papayanopolous
- Programs** Stella Miller and Ginger Mahoney
- Website** Stella Miller, Vinnie Schiappa, and Charlotte Miska



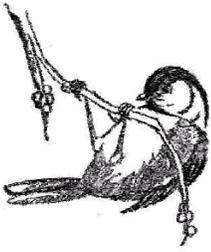
April Program
 Wednesday, April 11
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library
 7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Program

A Day in the Life of a Backyard Bird - The Audubon at Home Program and You

Our backyards are becoming increasingly more important to the conservation of birds and other wildlife as more land area is lost to development. It is increasingly important for homeowners to keep their yard and homes safe and attractive for birds and other wildlife, and there are many easy and cost effective ways to create a healthy backyard habitat, without relying on pesticides. Come learn tips that the *Audubon at Home* program has to offer, and learn how truly connected you are to your local environment.

Our presenter, Sean Mahar, is the Associate Director of Conservation for Audubon New York, the State program of the National Audubon Society.

Ah, My Little Chickadee by Stella Miller



December 13, 2006. There was a nip in the air, but the sun was bright as I embarked on my first gig as a field trip leader. I chose Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge for my “maiden voyage” because I knew that I really would not have to do much “leading”. From past experience, I

took it for granted that the birds would take care of everything themselves, and I was not disappointed!

We had a wonderful turnout. A group of children from Starflower Experiences, Inc. participated in the walk, along with their group leaders, Laurie and Ellen. Starflower is a local not-for-profit educational organization that offers nature experiences to kids that normally would not have the opportunity to learn about the outdoors. These children turned our little field trip into a splendid adventure. Jimmie, Ralph, Nicholas, Melissa, Christina (along with her parents, Najuma and Jonathan), Cristina, Kayla, and Antonio had a terrific time although we were hard pressed to determine who was having more fun, the children or the adults!

We started out slowly. Other than a few birds in the parking lot, the Chickadees just were not coming in. As I looked at the disappointed faces before me, I explained to the kids that due to the unusually warm weather we had been having, the birds were probably still utilizing their natural food sources. Secretly, I was praying the darn birds would show up so that I would not have 15 disappointed people on my hands. I led them further down the woodland trail, hoping we would see some action. Suddenly, one bird flew into sight, then another. Chickadees, then Tufted Titmice, and finally the White-breasted Nuthatches all approached our group, eager for handouts and the fun began! Some of the children were apprehensive at first, if not downright frightened. We coaxed and guided them and showed them that there was nothing to be afraid of. We explained that birds were normally very timid around humans and how wonderful it was that this particular location had such trusting birds. Melissa was too nervous to even take her gloves off at first, but by the end of the walk she was standing barehanded, both hands out, reveling in the joy and wonder of having these tiny creatures come to her for food. Her brother Nicholas may turn out to be a fine birder someday. He heard me “pshing” and immediately picked it up and began “pshing” himself. He also pointed out a bird with a broken leg, demonstrating his terrific observational skills.

We planned on feeding the birds and walking the trails for two hours, tops, but the children were having so much fun that we didn’t have the heart to stop. Four hours later as

the hunger pangs became too intense to ignore, we finally headed back to our cars. You do not need not be a child to feel a sense of awe the first time a small, trusting bird lands in your hand, looks you in the eye, and plucks a peanut from your palm. For anyone, child or adult, Morton is an enchanting place.

Out on a Limb by Alex McKay

I highly recommend Lyanda Lynn Haupt’s *Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds*, published by Sasquatch Books, a little gem of a book. The author, a former education director for the Seattle Audubon Society, writes with clarity and grace and blends a wide-ranging knowledge of ornithological science with what she calls “a fair amount of sentimental joy about the bird’s wonders and loveliness.” There is a good deal here about the scientific approach to birds but also much to charm “folks who simply wish to observe, enjoy, and conserve earthly birdlife.”

Each of the chapters focuses on personal experience and observation of a bird common to the Seattle area (a few exotics to us eastern birders) and then springs into all sorts of interesting scientific connections from mimicry and migration to taxonomy and vocalization. The birds range from Starlings and crows to sparrows and cormorants, Swainson’s Thrushes and Vaux’s Swifts to Blue Grouse and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. The discussions lead from splitting and lumping of species to aging and sexing of passerines in the hand, from neotropical migrants and their role in tropical ecology to biophony (a new word to define the concept of the combined sound of whole groups of organisms in a given biome). From the fairie effect of the song of the Varied Thrush we move to Steven Kellert’s *The Value of Life: Biological Diversity and Human Society* and his doctrine that “people will need to rekindle their capacity for experiencing wonder, inspiration, and joy from contact with the natural world and its many creatures.”

Rare Encounters does just that. Haupt writes with clarity and grace and I found my old enthusiasm for birds and bird lore being rekindled by following her experiences with Snowy Owls, a one-eyed Dunlin, hand-feeding Chimney Swifts, and marveling at the sights of the aerial mating of Vaux’s Swifts and a setting sun gleaning off the wings of Glaucous Gulls. Along the way we get to feel the atmosphere of the rainforest of the Olympic Peninsula and hear the ventriloquil hoot-hoot-hoot of the Blue Grouse and the bubbling phrases and trills of the Winter Wren. After reading a few chapters, you decide you need to get out and experience a few rare *moments of being*, as Haupt reminds us Virginia Woolf called these special realizations of our place in nature. Moments of grace, I used to call them.

Caumsett Designated a BCA Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) by Maria Kelly



At Audubon Board meetings, many issues and entities are referred to using abbreviations. I got used to that after a while and didn't need to ask as often "What does DEC mean?" (Department of Environmental Conservation). But it took me quite a while to distinguish between IBAs and BCAs, a distinction that really was worth the effort.

Most of the locations Huntington Audubon visits on field trips on LI are designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The designation, made by Audubon, goes through a long process and has five different types of classification which all add up to excellent habitat for birds. I became used to the official designation of Important Bird Areas as sites "providing essential habitat to one or more species of breeding or non-breeding birds . . . that is large enough to supply all or most of the requirements of the bird(s) during the season for which it is important" as stated in J.V. Wells' book *Important Bird Areas in New York State*. But BCAs? Eventually, I learned the differences.

As I understand it, Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs) have all the requirements of Important Bird Areas. Most are already IBAs. Additionally, Bird Conservation Areas are only on *State owned property* and *thus can be properly managed* to safeguard and enhance bird populations and their habitats. Much of the land designated as IBAs contains privately owned as well as public property including Federal and local government owned land.

Bird Conservation Areas go a step further than IBAs. With Bird Conservation Areas there is a commitment by New York State to conserve and protect the site and there is an organizational structure to implement that commitment.

So when I recently saw a full page article in the Winter 2007 issue of *Audubon Advocate* about the designation of 17 new BCAs I read it carefully. In the *Audubon Advocate* article, we are told 2 of the 17 state-owned properties that were designated as BCAs last Fall are on LI; Caumsett State Historic Park in our Huntington Audubon area and Peconic River Headwaters in the towns of Brookhaven and Riverhead. Most of the BCAs are on State lands managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation or by the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. With the new BCA designation, now the management of

those properties will be overseen by an advisory committee which was first established by the original Bird Conservation Area Program enacted into law in 1997. It is administered by a working group of Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation personnel as well as representatives from the state Department of Environmental Conservation. As explained in *Audubon Advocate* "Audubon New York is represented on both the advisory committee and the working group." The article describes the Caumsett property as "a 1,255-acre site containing significant beach and adjacent upland areas that provide nesting habitat for Piping Plover, Osprey, Least Tern, and Common Tern among many other species." What a terse description for the beautiful woods, meadows, pond, beach, hills covered with daffodils, trails for horses, barns, cottages, and mansion of that gracious estate.

So Caumsett, already part of an IBA designation, is now a Bird Conservation Area. Caumsett, a place I have enjoyed walking and birding in for some 30-odd years, will now quite deliberately be managed to safeguard its beautiful habitat and the wildlife it supports, with an official watchdog group monitoring it. Hooray for BCAs.



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)

Name _____

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**Make check payable to:
Huntington Audubon Society.
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P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735**



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.

March 2007

Saturday, March 10, 9:00AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *In Search of the Jaguar* - World renowned big cat expert and author Dr. Alan Rabinowitz has worked with tigers, leopards, and jaguars all over the world. Among his notable achievements are creating the world's first jaguar preserve in Cockscomb Basin, Belize and the world's largest tiger reserve in Myanmar. In 2004, he was featured in the National Geographic special *In Search of the Jaguar*. We are honored to have Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, whom *The New York Times* called "The Indiana Jones of Zoology", as our special guest this evening.

Sunday, March 18, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Saturday, March 31, 9:00AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

April 2007

Monday, April 2 - Deadline for the May-June-July *Killdeer*.

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 PM Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Sean Mahar, Associate Director of Conservation, Audubon New York, who manages the *Audubon at Home* campaign in New York, encouraging people to create healthy bird friendly backyard habitats, and eliminate their pesticide use will present *A Day in the Life of a Backyard Bird, The Audubon At Home Program and You*. Our backyards are becoming increasingly more important to the conservation of birds and other wildlife as more land area is lost to development. Come learn about the many tips that the *Audubon at Home* Program has to offer and learn how truly connected you are to your local environment.

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Sunday, April 22, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

May 2007

Saturday, May 5, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Leader of the Pack, African Wild Dogs* - Scientists estimate that there are only 3,000 to 6,000 wild dogs left throughout Africa. Dr. Pat Thomas, Curator of Mammals at the Bronx Zoo will tell us about the conservation work the Wildlife Conservation Society has undertaken in Botswana, Kenya, and Tanzania to save this endangered species, and give us a glimpse into the lives of the new pack of dogs at the zoo. Learn all about these beautiful, often misunderstood canines.

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Sunday, May 20, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Saturday, May 26, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.





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.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO THE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE.

March 2007

Sunday, March 11 through Saturday, March 17 at 7:00 PM - Woodcock Watch at Wicks Farm. Each evening at 6:00 PM Dick Furman will be near the building opposite White Post Farms' parking area on Pulaski Rd. to guide birders into the area of Wicks Farm where Woodcocks were seen displaying last year 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 Rd. west passed Oakwood Rd. in Huntington. From the west, take Woodbury Rd. toward Huntington. When Woodbury Rd. veers to the left after the Cold Spring Harbor RR Station stay straight. That becomes Pulaski Rd. White Post Farms is about a quarter mile from there.

April 2007

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 AM - Jones Beach, West End at the Coast Guard Station. Look for early migrants including Oystercatcher, Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron, Piping Plover, Egret, Merlin, Kinglet, Pine and Palm Warblers, Eastern Phoebe, Field Sparrow. Leader: Bill Reeves (631-266-4309).

Directions: Take either the Meadowbrook Parkway or Wantagh Parkway to Ocean Parkway. Follow signs for the Coast Guard Station at the West End of Jones Beach. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms.

May 2007

Sunday, May 6, 9:00 AM and Monday, May 7 through 11, 4:30 PM - Bobolink Watch at Stillwell Woods. Dick Furman will be conducting a Bobolink watch on Sunday morning and each weekday afternoon if it's not raining. Meet at the far end of the parking lot near the gate to the trails. Leader: Dick Furman (631-692-7356).

Directions: Take Jericho Tpke. to South Woods Rd. in Syosset. Go north about a mile and a half. As soon as

you pass Syosset HS, look on the right for the entrance to Stillwell Woods Park and ball fields. Drive around, past the ball fields to the end of the parking area near the gate to the trails.

Saturday, May 12 - Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem, NY and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River. The Wolf Center required advanced reservations, but you can still meet us at Pound Ridge. Details will be in the May *Killdeer* and on the website.

Sunday, May 13, 8:00 AM - Central Park (please note earlier time and this is Mother's day). The finest spot for birding for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Always a great day. Meet at the Boathouse near the Ramble. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Directions: The Boathouse in Central Park is most easily accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5th Ave near 76th St. You will walk downhill veering left past the Alice in Wonderland statues, by the right side of the sailboat pond, then head toward the right, up the hill, cross the roadway and to the Boathouse.

Sunday, May 20, 6:45 AM - Birdathon. All day trip. You are welcome to participate for all or part of the day and to leave at any time. Beginning at the parking lot on 76th Avenue of Alley Pond Park, then Forest Park, then Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Expect to see at least 100 species of birds. This is a major fundraiser and lots of fun. Leader: Bob May. Join us or sponsor a participant. Contact Ginger Mahoney (516-922-4599) for more information.

Directions: Take Northern State Parkway to exit 23. Go past the Cross Island Parkway exits to Union Tpke. Turn right (west), onto Union Tpke to Springfield Blvd. Go right on Springfield Blvd to 76th Ave. Turn right. The entrance to the parking lot for Alley Pond is immediately on your left. Meet at the lot.



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

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March - April 2007



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Nominations Applauded

David J. Miller, Executive Director of Audubon New York, praised the nomination of Alexander B. "Pete" Grannis to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Judith Enck as Deputy Secretary for the Environment.

"Pete Grannis has been a steadfast champion for conservation and the environment for decades . . . He is a brilliant choice for Commissioner as he knows, and truly understands, all the environmental challenges facing New York State." said Miller. Grannis played a key role in the passage of the original bottle bill, clean-up of brown fields, measures relating to acid rain, clean air, and water, hazardous waste materials, rapid transit noise codes, and second-hand smoke legislation. A three-time winner of the Legislator of the Year award from the Environmental Planning Lobby, Grannis also received awards from the American Cancer Society and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Nominated as Deputy Secretary for the Environment is Judith Enck. David Miller said of her, "She has the knowledge and experience to address environmental issues for Governor Spitzer."

Birders' Box

So far this year we have had only one official trip on January 6 to Massapequa Preserve and Twin Lakes. Most of us also continued birding on the way home at St. John's Pond in Cold Spring Harbor. We saw 38 species including Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Widgeon (at St. John's Pond), American Widgeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Short-billed Dowitchers, Coots, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and even a Catbird.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 38.



Be sure to visit us on the web

www.huntingtonaudubon.org