

## The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

March – April 2010

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

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### News from the President

by Stella Miller

#### A Pint-Sized Local Celebrity

As one of the unlucky people whose job was affected by our unfortunate economy, I knew that I couldn't allow myself to wallow and sink into a blue mood. I decided to make hay while the sun shines and instead of sitting home moping, I have been taking advantage of this free time to go birding - a lot. As in, 102 birds seen by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Not too shabby for 31 days! Although distressed about my situation, there is something about being outdoors in the brisk cool air that helps lift one's mood.

One bird that I was able to observe was the Dovekie that found its way into a marina in Great River. Dovekies are alcids (or auks, a highly specialized and ecologically diverse group of marine, wing-propelled pursuit-diving birds, such as murrelets, puffins, and razorbills) and normally birds of the open ocean. Thanks to the various storms, accompanied by high winds, that have been occurring, there has been a pretty large influx of them on Long Island. Dovekies are finding their way into wildlife rehabilitation facilities across the island and sadly, most of them are not making it. This individual defeated the odds long enough to become a local celebrity. First spotted on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, this diminutive chubbette caused quite a sensation, making the local TV news, *Newsday*, birder's blogs, and listservs. If you visit our Facebook page, you can follow the blogs and videos that chronicled its almost week-long stay here. Never having seen one before, I raced out to catch a glimpse. Excited to add a life bird to my list, I was not prepared for what I encountered. This was not a bird to simply check off the list and then move on. This was an experience to savor and treasure.

The word cute doesn't even begin to describe this pint-sized auk, who was observed motoring around as if it were a windup toy over the inlet, eliciting "ooh"s and "aaaah"s and "he's so cute"s as it dove, swam, and preened its way into the observing birders' hearts. The Dovekie stayed from Monday to Saturday giving birders extraordinary and rare close-up views. I visited the Dovekie three times and each time was just as enchanted as the first. Much to our

dismay, it was nowhere to be found on Sunday. As someone who understands wildlife and the perils of life in nature, realistically I know what probably happened to it. But I cannot help but wish and hope that this little Dovekie, who wormed his way into so many people's hearts, managed to find his way back out onto the ocean.



*photo by Luke Orman*

For almost a week this little Dovekie brought smiles to the faces of all that saw it and made me forget my troubles. This spunky, small bird was a gift and we can only hope that wherever he is now, he is flying free, as he was meant to be.

### Mailing Labels

You may be wondering why "Or Current Resident" is appearing on your mailing label. The US Postal Service has changed their Move Update standards to include bulk mail. This means HOBAS must certify that the address on each piece of mail has been updated in the last 95 days. Most of our mailing labels come from National Audubon without this certification. We can either pay an outside vendor to certify our mailing list or pay the Post Office for any mail that is forwarded or returned. In order to avoid these costly options, we have added "Or Current Resident" to our labels. Please do not be offended by this seemingly impersonal addition. We value and appreciate all our members and their support in helping us achieve our goal to protect and preserve our environment.

**March Program**  
**Wednesday, March 10**  
**Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments  
 7:30 PM Speaker

*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 for a discussion of 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.

**Adopt-a-Highway**



Our highway cleanups resume on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM. If you want to help make our part of the world just a bit nicer, come join us. We meet across from Wick’s Farm. Call Simone DaRos (516-987-7136) for directions.

**CSH Library and Environmental Center**  
 by Alice Del Bosco

On your way to our monthly Audubon meetings, you may have noticed at the entrance to the Cold Spring Harbor Library the sign noting that the library is also an Environmental Center and wondered how that came about.

Long-time local residents remember that the land belonged to the State and was designated to become a highway to Caumsett State Park. When that fell through and the library was searching for land for their proposed new building, they made a deal with the State, which at that time was represented by Al Caccese, who is now director of Audubon New York.

It also happened that The Nature Conservancy was looking for a new home for their library. The outcome of all this is that the library found needed land, The Nature Conservancy found a home for its library, and the State land, on which there is a Greenbelt Trail, has acquired exterior access to restrooms for walkers without them having to go through the library.

The library was designed on the appearance of one of the dairy barns at Caumsett and features a “silo” which on the first floor contains a meeting room where our chapter Board of Directors holds its meetings. On its second floor there is another meeting room where the bookcases feature environmental books, and on its third floor, the children’s floor, is a room with a bench encircling it to accommodate listening children. The Library Board engaged Lilith Jones, a young local artist who has painted the meeting room at The Nature Conservancy in Cold Spring Harbor as well as the walls of the entrance at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary with lovely paintings of a nature theme, to paint a background for this space which would duplicate the habitats surrounding the library. At that point Helen Crosson, the library director, held a breakfast for representatives of the organizations focusing on our local environment, to come and make suggestions to Lilith on which birds and animals should appear where in her mural. Maria Kelly and I were fortunate to have been invited to offer ideas. We can’t wait to see the room when it’s finished. What a treasure it will be for the children of Cold Spring Harbor!

When you visit the library make sure to take the elevator to the third floor and see for yourself!

*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.

**Officers**

President	Stella Miller	516-682-5977
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Blair Broughton	516-802-5356
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Recording Sec.	vacant	
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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
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You can find us on the World Wide Web at  
[www.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org).

E-mail us at [has@huntingtonaudubon.org](mailto:has@huntingtonaudubon.org).

## Preserving Plum Island

by John Turner, HOBAS Conservation Chair

Located less than a mile from Orient Point, the tip of Long Island's North Fork, lays the 840-acre Plum Island. Well known from Nelson DeMille's book of the same title and more so because of the Animal Disease Center research facility that exists there and takes up less than 10% of the island, less well-known is the fact that about 90% of the island is undeveloped and this portion of the island has significant ecological value.

This value is reflected in many ways. The narrow eastern portion of the island serves as a seal haul-out site for as many as several hundred harbor and grey seals during the colder months, making it one of, if not the most significant haul-out site in southern New England. Piping Plovers, a federally threatened species, breed on the island and Common and Roseate Terns, a federally endangered species, rest on the beaches of this undisturbed setting and actively feed in the waters surrounding the island as do numerous species of loons, grebes, and sea ducks. The shrubby coastal vegetation that covers the island (including extensive thickets of beach plum which gave the island its name) provides habitat for several dozen breeding birds as well as important migratory stopover habitat for migrating species. This latter feature has been shown to be important for songbird species migrating over water in that it allows them an opportunity to land and feed, thereby replenishing their energy reserves. A large freshwater wetland exists in the southwestern part of the island. Cultural resources on the island include the Plum Island Lighthouse and the remains of Fort Terry, an old military fortification.

Unfortunately, the future of the island is uncertain and its significant natural resource values in trouble. This is because of a decision by the federal government, through a law passed by Congress and signed by the President, to close the Plum Island Animal Disease Center and sell the island to a private party for development. Proceeds of the sale are to help defray the expense of building a new facility, proposed to be built in Kansas.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society has joined with the other Audubon chapters on Long Island (that collectively make up the LI Audubon Council) in an effort to reverse this action. We would like to see all or a significant fraction of the island dedicated as a national wildlife refuge, like the federal government has done so many times with other federally surplus properties, including several relatively close to Plum Island such as Sachuest Point, Block Island, and Nomans Island National Wildlife Refuges.

In early January Stella Miller and I, along with several representatives from the eastern LI Audubon chapters, met with Congressman Bishop to discuss the fate of the island

and to express our position in support of preservation. While indicating his primary goal was to preserve the several hundred jobs that hang in the balance at the facility, Congressman Bishop stated his support for Audubon's position regarding a conservation outcome. He also explained that due to the fact the buyer of the island is expected to cover the cost of constructing the new animal disease control facility, as mentioned above, and the decommissioning costs of the Plum Island facility it's not likely anyone will come forward to purchase the island. Let's hope Congressman Bishop is right because it will provide us a second bite at the apple.

In the weeks ahead we intend to meet with staff from the office of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and public officials from Southold Town to discuss the future of the island. We also hope to work with other conservation and environmental organizations to establish a Plum Island Coalition to galvanize public attention on the issue.

Stay tuned as the story concerning the fate of this environmentally significant island unfolds in the weeks and months ahead.

### Stay Connected



You can receive e-mail notifications of upcoming events, alerts, schedule change notices, and other news. Just go to [www.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org) to join our e-mail list. This is a great way to stay informed. Another way is to visit our **Facebook** page for schedule updates, trip reports, and the latest environmental news.

#### April Program

Wednesday, April 14

Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

#### *Tracking a Hidden Spectacle: Using Radar and Acoustic Monitoring to Study Nocturnal Bird Migration*

Andrew Farnsworth, PhD will be speaking about two exciting ways to study migration and to experience migration from a broad and new perspective: listening to flight-calls of passing migrants and interpreting radar imagery of bird migration. We will hear a variety of pre-recorded flight-calls and see many radar images from across the US. If we are lucky, and conditions are favorable, we will try to look at live radar images and possibly even listen live to passing migrants.

**Out on a Limb**

by Alex McKay



The Town of Huntington Conservation Board has received the New York State Association of Conservation Commission’s 2009 Education Award for its participation in the preparation of the recently published *Huntington Trails Guide*.

For some time, park stewards had requested and recommended the preparation of trail guides for many of the Town’s actively hiked parks. Last summer, former Town Councilman Stuart Besen supported the idea and helped provide an impetus for the creation of the trails guide which features 20 of the Town’s parks from Makamah and Betty Allen Nature Preserves in the north to Butterfly and Dr. Jeffrey Wenig Memorial Parks in Melville.

The guide contains information detailing park locations, parking information, trail lengths, park amenities, and educational opportunities. Maps and photographs, historical facts, information about the parks and preserves where trails are located, and lists of some of the common flora and fauna that may be encountered during an outing are included for each site.

The Town Board appointed a Huntington Greenway Trail Citizens Advisory Committee to provide suggestions as the project proceeded. Key to successful completion of the guide was the work of summer interns, Elana Israel and David Kaufman, working under the direction of Margo Myles, Coordinator of Open Space Conservation and Liaison to the Conservation Board, and Aidan Mallamo, GIS (Geographic Imaging System) Supervisor for the Town. The student interns walked the trails using GIS equipment, took notes on park needs, and documented everything with photographs. They also researched the history of the parks from Planning Department and Conservation Board files.

This invaluable guide to trails in our Huntington parks can be accessed on the Town’s website at [www.town.huntington.ny.us](http://www.town.huntington.ny.us) under “Featured Resources” on the home page. Ten thousand printed copies were distributed through local papers sponsored by the Times Beacon Record Newspapers. A limited number of printed copies are still available (first come) at the Parks and Recreation and Citizen’s Services offices at Town Hall. It is hoped that next summer more trails will be documented and another edition of the guide will be developed.

(Adapted from the minutes of the Huntington Conservation Board, courtesy of Joy Squires, Chairperson.)

**NOTE:** At the present time there are about 250 stewards for the Town’s 150 active and passive parks. Park

stewards are a vital volunteer force serving as “eyes, ears, and mouths” of our parks in the field. Stewards meet twice yearly and report regularly on conditions in their parks. Please call Joy Squires at 631-351-3398 for a program brochure or further information on becoming a park steward.

**Changing Your Address?**

If you presently get *Audubon* magazine and need to change your address, send your name, the old address, the new address, and the date it is effective to: **Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 422248, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6717**. The new address labels will be available to us for your copies of the *Killdeer* as well. We cannot change your address at National Audubon for you.

If you only get our newsletter (chapter only members) send your name, old address, new address, and the date it is effective to **Editors Killdeer, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735**.



Visit us on the web  
[www.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org)



**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**

## A Bird's Eye View

by Stella Miller



### Wesley the Owl Birdwatcher, The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

I recently finished two very different books and enjoyed them both. The first is *Wesley the Owl* by Stacey O'Brien, a delightful and remarkable memoir about a Barn Owl and the woman who was his caretaker for almost 20 years. It is a fascinating look into the mind of an owl and the relationship that can form between two species.

Stacey O'Brien, a biologist, adopted Wesley as a non-releasable four-day old owlet and lived with him for almost two decades. During that time, they forged an incredible bond, a bond that transcended their interspecies differences. This wonderful memoir is filled with humor, important life lessons, compassion, and interesting facts.

Stacey was a research student when she took Wesley home. He, of course, became imprinted on her. Imprinting is when an animal takes its identity from whatever it perceives to be its parent. Many birds of prey in captivity are imprints and as a result, they can never be released into the wild. The danger to humans is too great and the chances of survival without proper training from a raptor parent is slim. Wesley thought of Stacey as his mother, and then his mate. His various sexual overtures towards her are a hoot (sorry, I couldn't resist) to read about and her discomfort is priceless as she tries to explain Wesley's "affection" to her professor.

This book carries you through the 19 years that they spent together. Some of it is very funny, and I especially enjoyed reading about Stacey's various suitors and their reactions to Wesley. Perhaps my favorite anecdote is the one about the night Stacey was feeding wild Barn Owls and was approached by some rather sketchy characters. As she explained what she was doing, the boys were transformed into assistants as they became excited about her efforts and eagerly helped her out. Proof that education and awareness are key and I would bet that after that experience, every one of those boys developed a little bit of appreciation and compassion towards owls. Just as this book leads us into the mind of Wesley, and teaches us the "Way of the Owl", these boys' lives were probably changed for the better that night. Stacey's life was absolutely changed for the better through her relationship with Wesley.

I think you will adore this book. Sweet, funny, heartbreaking, engaging, and informative, you will not be able to put it down.

Switching gears, I also recently finished *Birdwatcher, The Life of Roger Tory Peterson* and enjoyed that a great deal too. This book is written by Elizabeth Rosenthal and is a terrific and thorough look into the life of Roger Tory Peterson. To me, Peterson was always an abstract and revered figure. Who hasn't owned a Peterson field guide? It was the first one I owned, a gift from my mother for my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, along with my first pair of binoculars. It took me a very long time to actually delve into birding, but I always had my Peterson field guide handy if I did need to ID something through the years.

Roger Tory Peterson was born in 1908 in Jamestown, NY. From an early age he was enthralled by birds and nature. In 1934, his *Field Guide to the Birds* revolutionized the world of birding and he is credited with bringing bird watching to the forefront of American interests. Thanks to his field guides, millions of people now had the tools to go out into the field and definitively identify what they were seeing. His influence and knowledge helped spur a national pastime that can now boast over 48 million participants, with one in five Americans stating that they watch birds. This book is so much more than just a narrative about Roger the "birding legend". What Rosenthal does is tear down the myth and legend and offer us a wonderful glimpse into the real person. His marriages, his relationships with his children and with others in the field; it is all covered here. The love of nature that had begun as a small child had morphed into a force to be reckoned with. When he died in 1996, at the age of 87, as the father of modern birding, he left behind a lifetime of achievement and had influenced and helped to educate millions of people. This is a terrific book and I recommend it.



### Any materials relating to the history of Huntington Audubon

- Photos of trips, displays, speakers, festivals
- Posters
- Patches
- Dinner brochures/menus
- Slides and tapes
- Birdseed sale materials
- Memorabilia

What is in your closets, garages, attics, and drawers?

**To donate please call Doris Bierhanzl (631-757-1408) or Alice Del Bosco (631-549-0017).**



## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and 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, 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 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 for a discussion of 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 the Cold Spring Harbor Library.**

**Thursday, March 25, 6:30 - 8:30 PM – Birds & Birding Workshop – The Basics & Beyond at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** Session 2: Birds on the Wing – The mechanics of flight, elements of navigation, and migration and Nests, Eggs, and Young – The early life of a bird. Fee \$20. To register call Charlotte Miska (516-456-6791). Make out your check to Huntington Audubon. Send it to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735.

**Saturday, March 27, 10:30 - 4:00 AM – Shorebird Workshop at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** See article on page 8. Open to Audubon members only.

### April 2010

**Monday, April 5 – Deadline for May-June-July Killdeer.**

**Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Tracking a Hidden Spectacle: Using Radar and Acoustic Monitoring to Study Nocturnal Bird Migration.* Andrew Farnsworth, PhD will speak about two exciting ways to study migration and to experience migration from a broad and new perspective: listening to flight-calls of passing migrants and interpreting radar imagery of bird migration.

**Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.**

**Thursday, April 29, 6:30 - 8:30 PM – Birds & Birding Workshop – The Basics & Beyond at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** Session 3: Food and Feeding – An overview of the types of food birds eat, the ways in which they feed, and the ecological implications of feeding and Birds for the Next Generation – Conserving birds today and through the years. Fee \$20. To register call Charlotte

Miska (516-456-6791). Make out your check to Huntington Audubon. Send it to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735.

### May 2010

**Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *An Introduction to the Pine Barrens with John Turner.* Formed by a unique set of geological conditions over the past 15,000 years, the Pine Barrens is Long Island's premier ecosystem, its most significant conservation success story, and one of the Northeast's greatest natural treasures. This program will illustrate many of the plant and animal species, natural communities, and ecological processes that collectively shape this important ecosystem and discuss the three-decade long battle to save the landscape that many refer to as "Long Island's Central Park".

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

### Birders' Box

The January 9<sup>th</sup> trip to Prosser Pines was postponed to January 23 due to weather conditions, but the new date proved unproductive. No owls were seen or heard, but John Turner explained the owls that can be found on LI and Stella Miller explained their various adaptations to the nocturnal life.

That same morning a waterfowl walk netted 43 species. Highlights included the sight of a Red-tailed Hawk tearing apart a gull and the incredible visual of anywhere from 20,000-40,000 Greater Scaup off of Morgan Park in Glen Cove. Another exciting find was a Blue Phase Snow Goose. Among the ducks seen were Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, American Wigeon, Redhead Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Long-tailed Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Barrows Goldeneye. Other waterfowl included American Coot, Horned Grebe, both Red-throated and Common Loon, Brant Geese, and Great Blue Heron.

At Pelham Bay on January 30<sup>th</sup>, Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls were seen.

**Number of species seen this calendar year on HOBAS trips is 60.**



## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington-Oyster Bay 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.

### March 2010

**Sunday, March 7, 9:00 AM – North Shore Ponds and Harbors.** See winter ducks as well as permanent residents. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

**Directions:** Meet at the TRS parking lot on Cove Road in Oyster Bay. From 25A, go north on Cove Road and follow it to TRS.

**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 in Huntington. 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.

**Sunday, March 14, 1:00–3:00 PM – Annual March Turtle Count at Clark Botanic Gardens.** Come join us for the ongoing turtle counts. If time permits we will also do some birding. Leader: Peter Warny. To register call Stella Miller 516-695-0763.

**Sunday, March 21, 9:00 AM – Shu Swamp/Sagamore Hill.** At Shu Swamp we will search for Wood Ducks and Rusty Blackbirds while observing skunk cabbage and any spring ephemerals that may be blooming. At Sagamore Hill, we'll walk the trail from the Old Orchard Museum to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

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

**Friday, March 26, 7:30 PM – Nocturnal Salamander Safari for Families at West Hills County Park.** We will look and listen for spring peepers and wood frogs and look for spotted salamanders. Bring a flashlight and wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. Leader: John Turner. To register call Stella Miller 516-695-0763.

**Directions:** From Rt 25, take West Hills Road south about 8/10 of a mile to Reservoir Road. Make a right onto Reservoir Road. Pull over to the side of Reservoir Road just past its intersection with Ridge Drive, which is on the left, inside the gate to the park.

### April 2010

**Sunday, April 4, 9:00 AM – Jones Beach.** Look for early migrants including Oystercatcher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Piping Plover, egrets, kinglets, and warblers.

**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. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

**Sunday, April 18, 9:00 AM – Prospect Park.** A designated IBA we will look for early migrants. You can take an electric boat ride if you like. Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

**Directions:** Jackie Robinson Parkway to Bushwick Ave exit. Turn left on Eastern Parkway and stay on until Grand Army Plaza. Go around Plaza onto Flatbush Ave. (The Brooklyn Public Library will be on your left and the Park on your right.) After you pass the Zoo and Lefferts Historic House, turn right at the traffic light at Ocean Ave. Follow Ocean Ave to the next major intersection which is Parkside Ave. Make a sharp right into the Park. Proceed to the flashing light and turn left into the Wollman Rink parking lot. If it is not open, you have to park on the street. Follow signs to Audubon Center, a 5-minute walk from the parking lot.

*Continued on page 8.*



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

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March – April 2010



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### Field Trips (continued from page 7)

**Sunday, April 25, 8:00 AM – Hempstead Lake State Park.** Hempstead Lake State Park is an IBA that supports large numbers of flycatchers, warblers, tanagers, and a mix of other birds from mid April to late May.

**Directions:** Southern State Parkway west to Exit 18 (Eagle Ave) and proceed south to the 2<sup>nd</sup> parking lot. Leaders: Stella Miller and Brendan Fogarty. Call 516-695-0763 to register. **There is a \$6 per car fee.**

**Save these dates for future field trips.  
Details will be in the next issue.**  
Sunday, May 2 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Sunday, May 9 - Central Park

### Shorebird Workshop



With funding from a generous grant from Audubon New York, the New York City and Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Societies are co-hosting a **shorebird identification and censusing workshop on Saturday,**

**March 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM.** The workshop will start at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library and Environmental Center** (95 Harbor Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724) with an audio-visual presentation on how to identify the numerous shorebirds we are likely to see around Long Island during spring migration and how to census them effectively using standardized protocols.

Weather permitting, we will then go to a local site to see if we can catch any early migrants in the area and start putting our skills to work.

The International Shorebird Survey (ISS) is a program initiated by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in 1974 that uses citizen scientists to survey shorebirds throughout the Western Hemisphere. Over the years, data generated by the ISS have identified important staging areas and documented declining shorebird numbers in several species. The ISS is complimented by the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM), which focuses on collecting long-term data at selected sites, using ISS protocols. There are several PRISM sites on Long Island and one of the goals of this workshop is to empower and encourage more people to undertake shorebird surveys at more sites on Long Island, including PRISM sites.

We are able to reimburse for the mileage of one car from each Long Island Audubon chapter to travel to Cold Spring Harbor. Additional people may attend, but we are unable to reimburse for more than one vehicle. The room is able to accommodate a relatively large group, but we are asking all participants to register for the workshop to ensure the setup is appropriate and for catering purposes (yes, we will be providing lunch). The workshop is open to all Audubon members.

Please direct all questions and **send your registration information to John Rowden** at New York City Audubon, **email: jrowden@nycaudubon.org**, phone: 212-691-7483. To register, please include: your name, phone number, e-mail address, and local Audubon Chapter membership/affiliation.