

The Huntington Audubon Society  
*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

May - June - July 2006

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

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## Birdathons in 2006 by Ginger Mahoney



Despite blustering winds and chilling temperatures Spring 2006 arrived, daffodil greens emerged, and the crocuses bloomed! The trees in my neighborhood filled with Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds whose raucous calls were surprisingly welcome. The days grew noticeably longer, and morning birdsong stronger.

Like poets, we birdwatchers sing the praises of spring. It's a time of year like no other – that peaks for many of us on **The Big Day, Birdathon**. **This year, on May 21<sup>st</sup>, leader, Bob May, and an HAS group will once again set out in the early morning in an effort to tally up as many species as possible at “hot” sites like Ally Pond Park and Jamaica Bay.** (We typically see over 100 species.) The day can be long and thrilling as migrants that haven't been seen since last spring are added to the list.

**Birdathon IS a major fundraiser for our chapter and we ask that our membership get involved!** You can join in the count for all or part of that day. (Call Ginger Mahoney 516-922-4599.) But, more importantly, you can sponsor the team with a specified amount per species, (25 cents per bird is common) or a simple flat donation. Imagine how successful Birdathon 2006 could be if every chapter member donated just \$5.00! Please take the time to consider how best you can support your chapter.

This year members of HAS will also assist **Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay with their Birdathon to be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>** – International Migratory Bird Day. In an effort to encourage children and families to “experience” a birdathon and to raise more funds, TRS has planned several “mini” walks for that day. They will be held at

Shu Swamp, Hoffman Center, and Stillwell Woods and birders of all levels and ages are invited. Festivities and games to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day will be held at TR Sanctuary following the walks. (Contact Karl Brummert (516-922-3200) for more details or to register.)

Birdathon, like The Great Backyard Bird Count, Christmas Count, and Project Feeder Watch is a Citizen Science project. Data gathered and submitted to the eBird database adds to the depth of scientific knowledge about birds and bird conservation. Birds, their beauty and song are so much a part of spring. Your donations help to insure that they will continue to be, as HAS works to protect and preserve habitat for them and all the creatures of our natural world.

## HAS Giant Garage Sale

It's spring cleaning time, time to get rid of all that stuff you have been stepping over for months and accumulating in your closets and basements. Here is your chance to do that clean-up while performing a good deed for the Huntington Audubon Society. HAS is having a giant garage sale, the proceeds of which will help Huntington Audubon continue its mission of service to our community and environmental education.

Bring your donations of saleable items to Louise Hublitz at 202 Southdown Road, Huntington on Wednesday, May 31, Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please call 631-271-4386 to get directions and times to drop off your donations.

**Then keep the date of June 3<sup>rd</sup> in mind and stop by 202 Southdown Road in Huntington between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM and visit us during our sale.** Who knows what treasures you might find! (Rain date: Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.)



**There are no meetings or field trips in July and August.  
Enjoy the summer!**

## Volunteers Needed to Monitor Waterbirds at the Sally Rupert Preserve

by Steve Sinkevich



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for volunteers to assist in the monitoring of breeding water birds at the Sally Rupert Preserve (aka "Sand City") located at Hobart Beach in Eaton's Neck. Volunteers would conduct weekly monitoring of a Common Tern/Black Skimmer/Least Tern colony, as well as breeding Piping Plovers. Additional tasks may include replacement of damaged signs and public education while on-site. Volunteers should have some general knowledge of bird identification and biology, and be able to commit to weekly monitoring (at least one day a week) from April - August (some flexibility to allow for vacation, etc.). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide specific training in the monitoring of water birds. Interested parties should contact Steve Sinkevich of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (631) 581-2941 or [steve\\_sinkevich@fws.gov](mailto:steve_sinkevich@fws.gov).

*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.

#### Officers

President	Ginger Mahoney	(516) 922-4599
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Blair Broughton	(516) 692-2980
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Alice Del Bosco	(631) 549-0017
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Treasurer	Petie Szabo	(631) 427-8769

#### Newsletter Staff

Co-Editors	Maria Kelly	(631) 673-0937
	Charlotte Miska	(516) 922-9710

#### 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](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)

## May Program

Wednesday, May 10  
Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

### *Rare Birds on Long Island*

The Lighthouse Tract of Fire Island National Seashore occupies a unique position with respect to avian vagrancy (rare bird sightings) in eastern North America, as the site of a disproportionate number of exceptional records. Dr. Shaibal Mitra discusses historical patterns of avian vagrancy to Fire Island in relation to other migratory stopover sites in eastern North America, presents evidence that these patterns offer insights into important biological processes, including long-term shifts in birds' geographical distributions, and the geographical properties of vector-borne diseases.

Dr. Shaibal Mitra has studied birds in the northeastern United States and around the world for more than 25 years. He received a BA in Biology from Cornell University and a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago. From 1996 - 2000 he operated a major bird-banding station at the Fire Island Lighthouse. Currently, an Assistant Professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island, his research focuses on avian ecology, evolution, and conservation.

## Featured Volunteer - Alice Del Bosco

Alice Del Bosco has the distinction of having served as president of Huntington Audubon at two separate times: from 1979 - 1981 and again from 1995 - 1997. That's truly commitment. And as people who have known Alice for a long time realize, she has served in a vast number of capacities over the years.

Extremely active in the 1970's her efforts were part of the HAS anti-pesticide movement, waste water management, and support for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary whose future existence was in doubt at the time. (South Shore Audubon, North Shore Audubon, then known as Lyman Langdon Audubon, and HAS worked together to keep the sanctuary going when it was in jeopardy.) Alice worked on the first Bird Seed Sales in 1976 and still shows up routinely to help out with them. She helped Herman Wenz and Tom Caggiano set up a "Nature Awareness Day" in 1977, attended by over 500 people which later became a regular Fall feature for Audubon at that time. She is credited with being the force behind that program. While she was president the membership numbers reached 1,000 in 1981 and remained around that figure for many years thereafter.

*Featured Volunteer (Continued)*

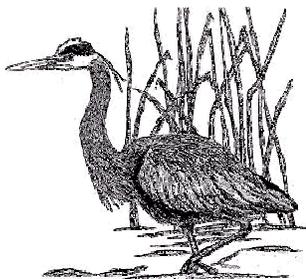
Alice has served on countless committees within HAS over the years including field trip coordinator, education committee, membership committee, conservation committee, Listen to the Sound campaign, constitution revision committee, budget committee, Wick's Farm committee, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration committee, and more not noted here.

What really matters, though, is that Alice gets things done and motivates others to accomplish things. Her participation on committees is not titular. She does the Christmas Count, participates in Birdathon, provides refreshments, and is a very regular contributor to the *Killdeer*. You name it, Alice pitches in.

Most importantly in the last decade or two Alice has been the key HAS link to several related organizations. She has been one of three HAS representatives on the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary Board of Directors for over 15 years. She served many years as secretary and as president of the TR board for a two-year term. Presently she is finance committee chair. Besides Huntington Audubon, Alice's efforts now focus on TR Sanctuary. She has served on their education committee and the committee in search of a new director. She is very active in their fund raising efforts.

Alice has also represented HAS at Audubon New York Council meetings regularly along with whoever was the current HAS president. At the Audubon state level Alice serves as one of only five chapter Board members of Audubon New York. Presently she is secretary of that group. She also has attended almost every meeting of the Long Island Audubon Council. (She fretted when surgery kept her from one.) Her presence at these meetings over the years has helped get our views heard and acted on and she brought back and explained to us the issues dealt with at the varied council meetings. As mentioned before Alice gets things done. Her work and attendance keeps the chapter connected to the larger Audubon entities. Well known around the state, her contacts help us to be more effective.

We are lucky to have Alice's dedication, enthusiasm, organizational skills, willingness to help in small as well as major projects, and most of all her unflagging belief that working together under the banner of Audubon we are making a difference for conservation. Go Audubon! Go Alice! Many thanks, Alice!



**What's New? Avian Flu**

Already the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary has been receiving calls from concerned mothers and schools asking if their children are being exposed to the dangers of Avian flu when they are attending one of the educational programs where live birds are presented. They are not. Although Audubon will not deal specifically with the health aspects of the problem (that is not our province) it has considered the situation carefully as it relates to wild birds.

FACTS you should know:

1. Infection of humans from H5N1 so far has only been found to be from infected domestic birds, not infected wild birds. To date there have been no known cases of H5N1 in humans as a result of contact with wild birds.
2. The form of H5N1 that is deadly to chickens and waterfowl has not been found yet in North or South America (as of March 20, 2006).
3. There is no evidence of danger of catching H5N1 from bird feeders. Most birders make it a practice of regularly cleaning their feeders with a weak bleach solution or soap and water to prevent transmission of other diseases among birds.
4. There is no danger of contracting H5N1 from birding.

Keep up-to-date on this issue by visiting the National Audubon website [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on Avian Influenza Information.

**More Annual Appeal Donors**



We want to thank the following people whose Annual Appeal donations were received after the publication of the March-April *Killdeer*.

- Trisha Crespo
- Elizabeth K. Reilley
- Simone Da Ros
- David and Susan Taylor

**June Program**

Wednesday, June 14  
Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Program

***The Birth of Avalon Park***

Katherine Griffiths, Director of Avalon Park in Stony Brook, presents ***The Birth of Avalon Park***. Her slide program shows the property before during and after its restoration and details the steps taken to restore the property to its natural beauty. A labor of love dedicated in memory of a son, the family recreated a jewel in Stony Brook. (See follow up field trip to visit Avalon Park scheduled for June 17.)

## Good News for Long Island Sound by Maria Kelly



"This is a really huge day for the Sound" said David Miller, executive director of Audubon New York, on January 10, 2006. "It's so important to have all the major

players take ownership of the cleanup of Long Island Sound and today that's occurred." He was speaking about New York City's agreement to make at least \$710 million worth of improvements to sewage treatment plants to significantly decrease the amount of harmful nitrogen that NYC plants empty into Long Island Sound waters. Excessive nitrogen causes algae blooms that deplete oxygen from the water as the algae decay. That results in a condition known as hypoxia where sections of water have so little oxygen that fish and other sea creatures suffocate.

For many years HAS participated in the Listen to the Sound campaign which focused on making the Long Island Sound healthier. Then the Long Island Sound Study, a coalition of agencies and organizations working to improve the health of the Sound, including Audubon New York, established goals for reduction of nitrogen levels. In 1994, pressured by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New York State and Connecticut approved a comprehensive plan to clean up the Sound. Long Island and Connecticut communities, NYS, the EPA, and other entities have been working at upgrading sewage treatment facilities, but all were aware that NYC also is a major contributor to high nitrogen levels in the Sound.

The *New York Times*, which gave Audubon New York credit as a leader among the environmental groups that helped shape the agreement, stated that "Roughly half the nitrogen comes from treatment plants and other sources in about 80 shoreline communities, the other half from New York City plants." So getting NYC involved was crucial. Fifty percent of nitrogen coming from NYC does make it a major contributor. NYC settled a longstanding legal action agreeing to spend at least \$710 million to retrofit sewage plants to decrease nitrogen output by nearly 60% by 2017. (Those goals mirror the States' goals.) Work has begun on two of the four NYC plants involved. With the nitrogen reduced people will see a healthier estuary.

The *New York Times* editorial continues, "This does not mean the Sound is no longer at risk. *The Sound passes through the densest population corridor in the country and will remain forever stressed by the 20 million people who live within 50 miles of its shores.* Thus the shoreline communities in Long Island, Westchester, and Connecticut must do more than ever to contain pollution." (*Editor's Note: Italics above are editor's.*) The campaign is not over, but a huge battle has been won.

**Reminder:** Lawn fertilizer is also a contributor to nitrogen in storm water runoff that does not get funneled into

treatment plants in most North Shore communities and thus drains directly into the Sound. So you can personally be a player to help keep the waters of the Sound healthy. Think about it. Think globally. Act locally.

## Out on a Limb by Alex McKay

The notice in the March-April *Killdeer* for fond memories regarding Huntington Audubon brought to mind the late Irene Parks, dear friend, teacher, field trip leader, and indefatigable birder. Irene was what the *Readers Digest* would call a most unforgettable character.

My favorite Irene memory is like something out of a British sit-com starring Paricia Routledge, whom Irene somewhat resembled. We were on a field trip to Elizabeth Morton Refuge in Noyak and were returning from a trek out to the point for cliff swallows and a view of an osprey nest. Irene decided to take a short-cut back to the parking field and we started out across a stretch of marsh. Some time later, disoriented, our sweaty, muddy, and disheveled group emerged unannounced into someone's backyard where a garden party was in progress. The hosts and their guests, sipping cocktails and champagne, were dressed in evening clothes, tuxes on the men, long, elegant dresses on the ladies.

Irene expressed our plight and our apologies, explaining that we were lost birders, and asked for directions back to the Morton parking field. The surprised and, I think, amused assembly greeted us warmly, asked us about the birds, and, after graciously providing us with a refreshing pitcher of ice water, showed us the way down their driveway to Noyak Road and the refuge entrance, whence we trekked with Irene triumphantly in the lead.

Another time, Irene was following me on the Long Island Expressway with some her "boys," students from one her classes who were learning birds under her tutelage. In my rear-view mirror, I noticed Irene leave the road and head down an exit ramp. Unable to turn around, I continued to our planned destination. Sometime later, Irene arrived, laughing and explaining that she had followed another car thinking it was me, and ended up in someone's driveway in Holbrook wondering what I was doing there, just as they wondered why she had followed them home. That was Irene.

Many will remember Irene's detailed and enthusiastic bird sighting reports that were a monthly feature of our meetings. One time, she enjoyed telling us about a trip to Stillwell Woods with her "boys" and their sighting of a Snowy Owl in a tree at the edge of the woods. I can still hear her voice as she laughed and explained, "As we got closer, we discovered that it was Pekin duck perched in that tree." Yes, a Pekin duck. Believe it or not. That was Irene.

## Friendship is for the Birds!

by Stella Miller

In August 2005 I decided to participate in a bird walk at a preserve that I will leave unnamed for reasons that will become apparent. Being a brand new birder, I was starry eyed at the thought of all the new species I could possibly encounter while out on a walk with an experienced leader. Well, I learned a little lesson that day - some days are just duds when it comes to birding. But while I may not have come home with any new birds to add to my list that weekend, I did come away with one new lifer...my friend Simone!

My friend Carrie and I arrived that morning, bright eyed, bushy tailed, and enthusiastic to begin our little adventure. We always pay attention to the various other people taking part on these walks and as we milled about, we caught the eye of a blonde woman who was there on her own. We smiled, nodded politely, and began the walk.

I suspected that this wouldn't be a typical bird walk when I observed that our "guide" did not have binoculars. I knew we were in trouble when I asked him to identify a birdsong and he announced he was hard of hearing and couldn't make the sound out. As he and the others stood gazing at a Catbird for about 10 minutes, I resigned myself to the fact that I would be just having a nice walk in the woods.

It was during the catbird encounter that the blonde woman and I started rolling our eyes at each other. We gravitated towards one another, mumbling, "It's a Catbird for goodness sake" and then by silent, mutual agreement, we both started walking ahead. Like sheep, the others fell in line. As we walked along, she pointed out to the group a Downy Woodpecker (which our guide couldn't see), and I brought their attention to the song of an Eastern Towhee (which our guide couldn't hear). As we ambled down the path together, we began to chat and exchanged names. By the time a Northern Flicker flit past us on the trail an hour later, we knew all about each other's boyfriends and our mutual love of wildlife. At the end of our walk, we exchanged phone numbers and made plans to go birding again.

And did we! We discovered our first Black-throated Blue Warbler while on a trip to the ladies room at Jones Beach; our first Eastern Kingbird at Caumsett. One of our favorite birding memories has to be finding our first Yellow-rumped Warbler. We were thrilled to discover this little beauty, and as we exclaimed, "Oh my, how pretty, what a special bird!" we had no idea that within a day or so we would be grumbling, "Another stinking yellow rump!" Not that we much cared, we still thought they were adorable. These may all be fairly common birds to the experienced birder, but to beginners like us, they might as well have been Elegant Trogons, Lazuli Buntings, and Spectacled Eiders. When our new birding friend Sam

got us our first Northern Saw-whet Owl at Jones Beach, we were absolutely enchanted with this precious little creature. We attended the hawk watch at Robert Moses each Sunday, straining to make out what the other observers called a "Merlin!" or "Peregrine!" or "Kestrel!" but which to us only looked like tiny specks of black pepper. Eventually we did get our close up and personal views of falcons, but not without much effort on our part and even more patience on the part of the other hawk watchers.

We laughed as we realized that we had become what we had always thought of as "bird nerds" and we were proud of ourselves when we felt "accepted" by the more experienced birders we looked up to. Although I have been a member of Audubon for over 10 years, I had never attended the meetings. We began to regularly attend each month.

We discovered the joys of "confusing fall warblers" along with the frustration of dreaded sparrow identification. Next up were adding the various area owls to our list, then as winter progressed, the ducks. We have birded our way from Montauk Point to Pelham Bay and all points in between and are planning trips to Arizona and Florida this year. The wonderful people we have met along the way are now thought of as friends. We have built an enduring friendship based on our love of birds and the outdoors and look forward to birding together for many more years to come. That day in the preserve may have been a bust birding-wise, but for us, it was a truly eventful day!

Who says friendship isn't for the birds?



### Birders' Box

Ten brave souls withstood the challenge of birding during cold weather at Point Lookout. No Harlequin Ducks or Purple Sandpipers, but we saw lots of other good birds. Among them were Common and Red-throated Loon, Great Cormorant, Horned Grebes (lots), Northern Gannet, Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, Black Duck, Brandt, Sanderling, Bonaparte's Gull, Song Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, and Red-tail Hawk.

Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, and Cooper's Hawk were added on the Rare Bird Alert Walk. Birds were scarce that day due to cold temperatures, strong winds, and cloud cover, but 40 species of birds were spotted despite the weather.

**Number of species seen this year on HAS trips is 76.**



## 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 Huntington Public Library except for the months of July and August. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with refreshments and socialization followed by announcements and the featured speaker programs from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Board of Directors meetings are open to all HAS members. Board delegates are expected to attend.

### May 2006

**Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Dr. Shaibal Mitra, Assistant professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island will present **Long Island Rarities, Avian Vagrancy to Fire Island**. Dr. Mitra operated a major bird-banding station at the Fire Island Lighthouse from 1996 to 2000 and will share insights into rare birds seen on LI.

**Saturday, May 13, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon** - Wicks Farm spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

**Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 PM** - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

**Saturday, May 27, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon** - Wicks Farm spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

### June 2006

**Saturday June 3, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at 202 Southdown Rd. Huntington, **Giant Garage Sale** to benefit Huntington Audubon's education and environmental projects.

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

**Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Katherine Griffiths, Director of Avalon Park in Stony Brook, presents **The Birth of Avalon Park**. Her slide program shows the property before, during and after its restoration and details the steps taken to restore the property to its natural beauty. A labor of love dedicated in memory of a son, the family recreated a jewel in Stony Brook. (*See follow up field trip to visit Avalon Park scheduled for June 17.*)

**Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 PM** Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

**Saturday, June 24 9:00 AM-12:00 noon** - Wicks Farm spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

**Friday, June 30** - Deadline for the August - September - October *Killdeer*.

**NOTE: There are no meetings in July and August.**



### Membership Application

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to: Huntington Audubon Society**

**Send your check and application to: Huntington Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 735  
Huntington, NY 11743-0735**

Chapter No. RO2



## 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.

### May 2006

**Saturday, May 6, 8:00 AM (Note earlier start time.)** - Alley Pond Park and Forest Park. Early May is an ideal time for warblers and passerines in both these parks. Expect White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, several thrushes, and more. Leader: Maria Kelly (631-673-0937).

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

**May 8 through 12, 4:30 PM** - Bobolink watch at Stillwell Woods. Dick Furman will be conducting a Bobolink watch each afternoon if it's not raining. Meet at the far end of the parking lot near the gate into the trails. Leader: Dick Furman (631-692-7356).

**Directions:** Take Jericho Tpke. to South Woods Rd. in Syosset. Go north. As soon as you pass Syosset HS, look right for the entrance to Still Woods Park and ball fields. Drive around, past the ball fields to the end of the parking area near the gate to the trails.

**Sunday, May 14, 8:00 AM** (Please note: This is Mother's Day.) **Central Park.** Meet at the Boathouse near the Ramble. The finest spot for birding for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Always a great day. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

**Directions:** The Boathouse in Central Park is most easily accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue near 76<sup>th</sup> 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 21, 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 76<sup>th</sup> 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. (*See article in this issue.*) Join us or sponsor a participant. Contact Ginger Mahoney (516-922-4599) for more information. Leader: Bob May.

**Directions:** Take Northern State Parkway to exit 23. Go past the Cross Island Parkway exits to Union Turnpike. Turn right (west) onto Union Turnpike to Springfield Blvd. Go right on Springfield Blvd to 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn right. The entrance to the Parking Lot for Alley Pond is immediately on your left. Meet at the lot.

### June 2006

**Saturday, June 17, 9:00 AM** - Avalon Park Wildflower and Bird Walk led by a guide from Avalon. Follow up to the June meeting program about the restoration of a spot on LI to its natural beauty. There's hope for green spaces.

**Directions:** Take Northern State Parkway to the end, then Rte. 454 east to Rte 347. Veer left onto Rte 347. Follow it to Stony Brook Rd., about 2.5 miles. Turn left on Stony Brook Rd. continue on it until it merges with Main St. (25A). Park at the Grist Mill past the pond on the left hand side.

**NOTE: There are no field trips in July and August.**



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Huntington, NY 11743-0735

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May - June - July 2006



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## Audubon New York Update by Alice Del Bosco

This year at the spring Audubon New York Council meeting in Saratoga the delegates all looked forward, as always, to the Chapter Round Table discussion. What made this year special? It was the first year of Audubon New York's program of awarding grants to chapters to accomplish their local projects. The funds for this pilot program came from National Audubon which frequently chooses Audubon New York and its staff as the exemplary state for its new ideas. The National Board was delighted with the results. All of the chapter requests were considered to be noteworthy and exciting. Promising enough for National to consider extending the program to other states in the future.

Cathy Fitts reported for Huntington Audubon on our many activities, especially Wicks Farm and our support of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Dave Miller, executive director of Audubon New York, followed that with a special commendation and thank you to our chapter for its most valued and appreciated support of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and its programs through the years.

It's at our spring meeting that legislative resolutions proposed by chapters are proposed and voted on. This year Great South Bay Audubon expressed its concern about

digging ponds in salt marshes for mosquito control. As a result, a new resolve was added to the Long Island South Shore Estuary and Atlantic Ocean Beaches and Bays resolution to "support the exploration of alternative means . . . that are proven effective based on the best available science." Local concern translated into State and National support. New delegates, not yet familiar with the legislative process and how it works, were impressed as our staff explained how they use the resolution book when they personally and frequently visit our legislators to explain the importance of the resolutions and how they affect them and their voting constituents.

Sunday morning two topics of which you are going to hear a great deal this year were presented: Avian Flu and Global Warming. Audubon New York has already started working on these and will take PowerPoint presentations to the May meeting of the National Audubon Board as they form their policies on these issues.



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