

The Huntington Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



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May - June - July 2009

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Huntington Audubon Birdathon 2009

Help Us Meet Our Goal Of \$10,000 and You Could be a Winner!

Once again, Huntington Audubon will be holding its annual Birdathon at Alley Pond Park, Forest Park, and Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge on **Sunday, May 17th**. The event runs from 6:45 AM until 6:00 in the evening. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers, in fact, last year our chapter raised \$8,000, \$1,000 more than our goal, thanks to support from our members and friends! This year we have set **\$10,000** as our goal. Can we do it? With your help, yes!

Participants seek pledges - either a flat donation or a set amount per species of bird identified. (We usually see 100+.) On the Big Day we diligently search for as many species as possible and record all we see.

This year we are again offering more incentive for you to support us. Sponsors who support us at a level of \$50 and above will be automatically entered into a drawing to win \$500 cash! We will have other various prizes corresponding to sponsorship levels. Please check your mail for our complete prize list and sponsorship form. The Birdathon team member who brings in the greatest amount of donations will win a prize basket filled with terrific gifts!

Please consider joining the HAS team on **May 17th**. Join us for all or part of the day. Bring a friend or family member. **Ask your friends to sponsor you.** The more team members we have, the more funds we will raise. For a copy of a sponsorship form, please e-mail your request to trickiwoo63@yahoo.com.

If you cannot participate, please send a donation in support of Birdathon to Huntington Audubon, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743, sponsor a team member, or donate at our May monthly meeting. Help raise donations to support the efforts of your local Audubon

chapter and assist in sustaining the important work of environmental education and stewardship.

Donations must be received by June 1st in order to be eligible for drawings.

HAS Garage Sale

Here is your opportunity to clean out the closets and organize the basement while supporting the Huntington Audubon Society. On **Saturday, June 6th** we will be holding out fourth annual garage sale at **173 West Pulaski Road, Huntington Station** as a fundraiser for our chapter and the many programs we provide for our community. We will be accepting donations of small appliances, books, dishware, small furniture, sports equipment, clothing in good condition, jewelry, toys, or anything you think can be used by someone else. **We will accept donations from Friday May 30th through Wednesday, June 3rd**. Please call Cathy Fitts (631-427-8623) or Ginger Mahoney (516-922-4599) for drop-off times and directions. Remember, your trash is someone else's treasure! (The rain date is Sunday, June 7th.)



We Need You!

Many of our new members decided to join HAS after attending one of our outstanding monthly programs or going on a field trip. How did they hear about us? They saw a listing in a local newspaper or publication. We currently need someone to do this publicity. It takes about an hour a month and involves sending out via e-mail and US mail a list of our trips and meetings to various local publications. If you can help with this important task, please contact Stella Miller (516-682-5977 or trickiwoo63@yahoo.com).

May Program

**Wednesday, May 13
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

***The Amphibian Extinction Crisis: Saving Frogs
and Saving Ourselves***

Nearly half of the 6,000 amphibian species around the world may be threatened with extinction. Since the 1980s, approximately 120 species have vanished from the wild. This crisis is growing. Tonight Jennifer Pramuk, Ph.D will discuss the state of the world’s amphibians and possible solutions to this global issue. Dr. Pramuk is Curator of Herpetology, Wildlife Conservation Society and oversees a collection of over 1,000 reptiles and amphibians.

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.



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is the newsletter of the

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

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Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert 212-979-3070

For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife 631-423-0982

You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.huntingtonaudubon.org.
E-mail us at **has@huntingtonaudubon.org.**

Twin Ponds and Betty Allen

Where are they and who is she?

by Alice Del Bosco

Are you familiar with their relationship?

These two entities, which unfortunately fell into a regrettable relapse, have a long history with Huntington Audubon. That is about to change.

Many of you are no doubt familiar with the Twin Ponds Nature Preserve on the south side of Route 25A where Centerport and Northport meet. On the north side of 25A at that point is the Maritime Division of Twin Ponds Park. In 1990, Huntington Audubon became a park steward for the Nature Preserve. Soon after a large group of our members spent a lovely day constructing very substantial steps up to the concrete bridge crossing the outlet to Northport harbor, an occasion we all enjoyed while making a contribution to the park.

As we resume our responsibility to the Town as park stewards, we will need volunteers to keep any eye on the conditions of the park and to report to the Town, on provided forms, any unseemly conditions that might arise from irresponsible visits and activities of the public. (We’re not suggesting you undertake construction projects!) Town workers, once apprised of any problems, will take corrective action. Ideally, any of our members who live near the area and enjoy lovely walks through the park could serve as eyes and ears. Please consider volunteering. Others of you who frequently visit to bird or fish or like to “botanize” would also be welcome.

As for Betty Allen, she was a cofounder of the Huntington Audubon Society in 1961, an environmentalist, bird lover, and civic activist. Many of us remember how, at our meetings, Betty called attention to conditions, now widely accepted, but then just beginning to be recognized. One night she warned us not to use hairspray in the room where the canary was kept as it could be fatal! A startling statement at the time. When she passed away a large crowd of conservationists turned out for the dedication of the park in her name.

Huntington Audubon is resuming its role in continuing the tradition of Betty Allen. Join us. *(Please contact Alice Del Bosco at 631-549-0017 to volunteer.)*

Help reduce waste by bringing your own reusable cup or mug for coffee and tea to the membership meetings. In appreciation of your effort, everyone bringing a reusable cup will get a free raffle ticket.



Members' Night - A Huge Success

by Maria Kelly

February 12, 2009's Member's Night meeting started off with pizza instead of desserts and coffee. Well attended, the group socialized cheerfully until the presenters began.

First Bill Reeves, the HAS representative to the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), gave an interesting report about NYSOA's statewide project called the Young Birder's Club. It is designed to create a community where birders aged 14 to 19 will feel welcome. Club activities will include field trips, an annual meeting, and various project activities. There is already a website as well as an online discussion group, and there will be a newsletter. The objective is to have the young birders plan and run as many of the activities as possible, with guidance and help from adult volunteers. The young birders will also create the content for the website and newsletter. In order to join, an adult must bring along a youth member into the club, so adults cannot join without having a youth member joining at the same time. This way there have to be at least as many youth members as adults. NYSOA will help support it financially to minimize the out-of-pocket expenses for young birders when it comes to annual meetings or for speakers at events or to subsidize transportation costs to encourage participation in field trips by as many young birders as possible. Our Youth Outreach Committee (YOC) is participating in it. It is patterned after the Ohio Young Birder's Club pioneered by Kim Kaufman, Kenn Kaufman's wife.

Next, Vinnie Pelligrini, an HAS member who is also a member of the Youth Outreach Committee, explained the success of the feeder building project that had just been completed. Together with Cub Scout Group #313 in North Bellmore, the YOC built feeders to be donated to the Beth Abrahams Comprehensive Care Management Facility for Senior Citizens as part of a project called *Birds for Brains*, providing seniors with a connection to nature at the facility. Brent Bomkamp's father provided the raw materials and the Cub Scouts assisted by the YOC teens the labor. Listening to Vinnie describe the building activities so enthusiastically, it was evident all involved had a great time.

The evening concluded with a wonderful presentation of excellent digital photos taken by Marc Brody, narrated by Sharon Brody, of their recent trip to Costa Rica. Colorful birds, beautiful scenery, interesting details. A birder's delight.

Special thanks to Christiano's Restaurant in Syosset (www.christianos-restaurant.com) for donating the pizza, to Simone DaRos for donating chocolate, and Stella Miller for working with Christiano's.

Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion



Audubon recently released a new study using Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data. These analyses would not have been possible without the hard work of CBC participants and the many chapters that organize and lead counts. We thank all that have participated over the years for their effort. The study explored if birds had shown significant shifts in their winter distribution over the last 40 years. As we all know, birds are good indicators of the environment. We think birds provide important information to people on changes in the environment and human quality of life. Audubon has a goal of working bird indicators into regular reviews of how the environment in the US is doing and hopefully helping drive policy and funding that benefits the environment and birds. These analyses of the CBC dataset on winter distribution are part of that effort.

The report, *Birds and Climate Change*, is available at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/bacc/cbcanalysis.html> and provides more details on the analyses and results. To download the report from this web site, click on the "Download Report" link on the left side of the page or on the image of the report cover.

We will continue to undertake scientific analyses of these data to learn more about the status of birds and conservation needs. Please consider donating through the web site to help us continue using the CBC data to move a conservation agenda.



Visit us on the web

www.huntingtonaudubon.org

June Program

Wednesday, June 10
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

Creatures Great and Small: A Photographic Journey Around the World with Dr. Ivan Rothman

This program celebrates wildlife from North America to distant parts of the planet. Included in the show are Jasper National Park, polar bears of Canada, loons of Michigan, birds of Iceland, harp seals in the North Atlantic, captive predators of North America, mountain gorillas in Rwanda, and birds of the Falkland Islands, South Africa, and Tanzania.

Spring Birding Hotspots

by Brent Bomkamp



Spring migration is arguably the most productive time to go birding on Long Island. Every year millions of neotropical migrants pass through our area headed to various points across eastern North America. Perhaps the most beloved family of these migrants is the warblers, noted for their flashy plumages and buzzy songs. Being on the coast, we have the opportunity to view these species and others en masse, as northbound songbirds tend to be funneled towards the shore of the Atlantic Ocean by the prevailing westerly winds. This article will inform you of some of the best locations for enjoying these species in our area.

The **Muttontown Preserve**, located fittingly in Muttontown, is a 550-acre sanctuary owned by Nassau County. It has been listed by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area, and is one of the largest preserved parcels in the county. Habitats include small ponds, deciduous forest, open fields, clearings, and areas of conifers. Birders visit each spring in search of species such as Blackburnian, Blue-winged, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, along with a myriad of common species. In the fall, species such as Connecticut Warbler have been seen. The preserve can be reached by driving to the end of Muttontown Lane, which is the first left after Route 106 when coming from the east on Route 25A.

Another excellent site for migrants in our area is **Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge**. Although small and somewhat limited in terms of habitat, the refuge nonetheless attracts warblers of numerous species, including Blackburnian, Canada, and Nashville Warblers. On occasion, Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers have been seen. Target Rock NWR can be reached by taking the second left off of Lloyd Harbor Road after entering Lloyd Neck. The entrance is clearly marked.

My personal favorite hotspot is the **Crab Meadow** complex, composed of the connected Ingraham, Fuchs, Ambro, and Makamah Preserves. The habitat is extremely varied, with conifers, deciduous woodland, open field, small ponds and streams, marsh, and swamp. This naturally makes it attractive to the more aquatic warblers. A sample of species seen here includes the uncommon Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged, Prairie, and Chestnut-sided Warblers. Also, the rare and gorgeous Prothonotary Warbler has been seen here. **HAS will be conducting a field trip to this site on May 16th.**

Something to appreciate about migrants is that they generally aren't picky as to which habitat they land in, which is why common species such as Northern Paula, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green Warblers can often be seen in places such as suburban yards. However,

these three hotspots will certainly enhance your enjoyment of these species and others, by placing you in some of the most pristine and tranquil preserves on Long Island.

Out on a Limb

by Alex Mckay

A recent headline in a Florida newspaper caught my attention. "Alternate energy quest endangering birds" it read. Focusing on the negative effects of energy development on birds in North America, from wind turbines to oil and gas wells, the article turned out to be a review of the report *State of the Birds* released on March 19 by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. The combined effort of conservation groups including National Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others, *State of the Birds* is a comprehensive study of bird population indicators that shows a significant declining trend owing to a variety of causes.

Energy development is only one of many factors threatening avian populations, but it is one receiving attention from environmentalists and scientists as the nation moves forward to expand renewable energy production. "We need to go into these energies with our environmental eyes open," John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab, is quoted in the article. Transmission lines, roads to access energy fields, and mountain top removal to harvest coal can destroy and fragment birds' living spaces.

Of the more than 800 species studied, 64 are endangered or threatened and 184 are listed as species of concern. Species with limited distribution, high habitat threats, and severely declining populations are of pressing concern. Half of all coastal migrants have declined – Red Knots red flagged at 82%. Grassland and arid land habitat species show the most decline, Hawaiian and oceanic birds are considered most at risk, with many forest populations also diminishing.

Surprisingly, wetlands species, wintering coastal birds, and hunted waterfowl have been increasing over the past 40 years. Wetlands conservation and management have been cited as the factors responsible for this trend and give promise that strategic land management and conservation action can reverse many of the declines.

I was able to download the complete report from www.stateofthebirds.org, but since I am away from home and coping with a laptop and capricious wireless connections, lost it somewhere in cyberspace. I did get to read the overview, however. You'll have to be satisfied with this summary from my notes and the AP article for now. The full report should make good reading if you can find it.

Your Coffee Can Make a Difference

by Patricia Aitken



This year for the first time I attended the Spring Assembly of the Audubon Council of New York State, which was held in Saratoga Springs on March 27 – 29. This assembly gives the opportunity for various Audubon

chapter leaders to meet and discuss program initiatives and local and statewide conservation issues with Audubon staffers. Attendees had opportunities to attend workshops and network with other chapter leaders statewide. Robert Sweeney, who chairs the Committee on Environmental Conservation was the honoree at our Saturday night dinner. Lauren Hierl of the National Audubon Society gave an interesting and compelling presentation on the necessity of protecting the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

An issue that resonated with me and that I had not really been aware of was the subject of a presentation given on Friday night by Kenn Kaufman. Kenn is a legend among birders, and is the author of a series of bird guides which use digitally enhanced photographs to identify birds' field marks. He is also the author of *Kingbird Highway* which describes his experiences as he went cross-country birding beginning at the age of 16, is a field editor for Audubon Magazine, and contributes articles to *Birder's World*, *Bird Watchers's Digest*, and *Wildbird*.

Kenn spoke about shade-grown coffee and the problem this poses for migratory birds. As Kenn put it, here is migration from a bird's point of view: "When you were eight weeks old, your parents packed up and left. Now you're ten weeks old, and you're supposed to travel five thousand miles through dangerous territory, completely on your own, to a place you've never seen. And although you don't know it, your destination may have been destroyed before you get there." What does this have to do with coffee? Shade grown coffee is the traditional means of growing coffee. Coffee shrubs were planted in the shade of tall trees, which then provided excellent habitat for birds and other forest-dwelling wildlife. However, according to the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, in the past 30 years, half of the coffee farms in Latin America have been converted to "sun coffee" farms to increase production. The shade trees are cleared, and the habitat is lost. Because the shade is lost, the tropical soils are subject to more erosion, increased loss of nutrients and need more fertilizers and pesticides to supplement nutrients and suppress weeds. Farmers can also harvest an assortment of fruits, firewood, lumber and medicines from shade trees, making them less vulnerable to coffee price fluctuations. There is pressure on farmers to switch to sun coffee because it can generate higher yields and larger profits. The majority of farms that are still using traditional shade grown coffee methods are owned by small scale farmers.

Americans drink one-third of the world's coffee. By buying shade grown coffee we can help these farmers sustain their traditional growing methods, and assist migratory birds as well. Consumers can ask for shade grown coffee, either when buying a cup, or a pound of coffee to make at home. As in many other "green" claims these days, do not be misled. There are coffee brands out there which claim to be shade grown, when in reality, they may not be. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center has developed a set of strict criteria for evaluating shade coffee farms, and certify those that meet certification standards. There is a Bird Friendly seal which will indicate that coffee has met these standards. For more information, go to the Smithsonian Institute website at www.si.edu/smbc to learn more and see a list of the companies that sell bird friendly coffee. As someone who is a confirmed coffee drinker, this issue really resonated with me.

HAS is on Facebook – Check Us Out!

Facebook is a free, powerful social networking service that allows users to post online profiles and then connect with long-time friends, or make new ones who share the same interests. This social networking site is being used by non-profits, including Huntington Audubon, National Audubon Society, Audubon New York, and chapters across the country to create awareness about their campaigns and to connect with their communities.



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 _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 e-Mail _____

Make check payable to:
Huntington Audubon Society

Send your check and application to:
Huntington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-073



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 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.

May 2009

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *The Amphibian Extinction Crisis: Saving Frogs and Saving Ourselves* with Jennifer Pramuk, Ph.D. Nearly half of the 6,000 amphibian species around the world may be threatened with extinction. Since the 1980s, approximately 120 species have vanished from the wild. This crisis is growing. In Ecuador alone, each year more than five new amphibian species are discovered. Yet, overall numbers are declining faster than scientists can study and protect them and their fragile habitats. Tonight we will discuss the state of the world's amphibians and possible solutions to this global issue. Dr. Pramuk is Curator of Herpetology, Wildlife Conservation Society and oversees a collection of over 1,000 reptiles and amphibians. Her publications include 20 peer-reviewed articles including descriptions of 23 new species of frogs and toads and papers on the evolution, natural history, morphology, and captive husbandry of amphibians and reptiles.

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

June 2009

Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Creatures Great and Small: A Photographic Journey Around the World* with Dr. Ivan Rothman. This program celebrates wildlife from North America to distant parts of the planet. Included in the show are Jasper National Park, polar bears of Canada, loons of Michigan, birds of Iceland, harp seals in the North Atlantic, captive predators of North America, mountain gorillas in Rwanda, and birds of the Falkland Islands, South Africa, and Tanzania. Dr. Ivan Rothman is a physician specializing in Hematology and Medical Oncology, who also is an accomplished photographer. In the last 15 years he has concentrated on wildlife photography, traveling to many parts of the world, including 6 trips to Africa (7 countries), the Galapagos, the Falkland Islands, Costa Rica, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, and to many parts of the continental US.

Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Tuesday, June 30 – Deadline for the August - September - October Killdeer.



NOTE: There are no meetings or field trips in July.

Birders' Box

On February 22, at Point Lookout, the rain kept participants and birds away. We were a group of 6 including an enthusiastic 9-year old boy. Among others, we saw Sanderlings, Brant Geese, Horned Grebes, Black Ducks, Red-breasted Mergansers, and our target bird, the beautiful Harlequin Duck.

On the Montauk trip, February 28 we had 52 species including 13 species of ducks, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Purple Sandpiper, Wild Turkey, Belted Kingfisher, Cedar Waxwings, Red-winged Blackbird, and many Robins.

March 8, was a great day for birding. We saw the Ross's Goose, a rare bird for this area at Camman's Pond, Double-crested Cormorant, Fish Crow, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, both Scaups, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Northern Shoveler, Great Blue Heron, plus all the regulars

The Woodcock watch was successful. Several were seen and heard.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 66.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington 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.

May 2009

Sunday, May 3, 9:00 AM – Doodletown and Iona Island National Estuarine Sanctuary.

The abandoned Doodletown mine area in the Hudson Highlands is a great spot to see upstate birds. Cerulean and Hooded Warblers are good possibilities. The 200-acre Iona Island NES is a 6,000 year old tidal marsh. Estuarine birds and mammals should be observed.

Directions: (To Iona Island) From the NY Thruway (Interstate 87), north of NYC, take Exit 16 to Route 6E to the Bear Mountain. Bridge traffic circle. Go south on Route 9W 1.5 miles and turn left onto the causeway through the marsh to the parking area just west of the railroad tracks. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Saturday, May 9, 8:00 AM – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Known internationally as a premier US birding spot. Leaders: Stella Miller and Vinny Pellegrino. To register call (516-695-0763).

Directions: Take Southern State Parkway to Cross Bay Boulevard south, exit 17S, then head south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1.25 miles from the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light, meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, May 10, 8:00 AM – Mother's Day in Central Park. One of the finest spots for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area.

Directions: Meet at the Boathouse in Central Park. It is easily accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5th Ave near 76th St. 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. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 AM – Fuchs Pond Preserve. The 20.7-acre Fuchs Pond lies within the West Watershed of Crab Meadow, an identified priority of the New York

State Open Space Plan. Leaders: Stella Miller and Brent Bomkamp. To register call 516-695-0763.

Directions: 21 Norwood Road. Take Route 25A/Northern Boulevard in Northport. Go north (left hand turn) on Waterside over Norwood Ave, pass the pond on right. Make the next right onto Seaside Court and there's a little parking area right on the left.

Sunday, May 17, 6:45 AM – Birdathon! All Day Event!

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. Join us or sponsor a participant! Leader: Bob May. 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 Turnpike. Turn right (west) onto Union Turnpike to Springfield Blvd. Go right on Springfield Blvd to 76th Avenue. Turn right. The entrance to the parking lot for Alley Pond Park immediately on your left. Meet at the lot.

Buttercup Farm Hike / Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary Paddle / Bashakill Wildlife Management Area - Overnight Trip

Saturday, May 23, 9:00 AM – Buttercup Farm Sanctuary. Located in the northeastern corner of Dutchess County, both Golden-winged and Lawrence's Warblers are seen periodically. After Buttercup Farm we will meet at 12:30 at Ramshorn to kayak or canoe the Sanctuary. Registration by May 20th for the paddling is a must. Paddling trip: \$20 for adults, \$15 children 7-15. Larry Federman of Audubon New York will accompany us.

Directions to Buttercup Farm: From the Taconic Parkway, exit at US Route 44. Make left (north) on Rt 82. Follow Rt 82 through Stanfordville, continue on approx 4 miles until you see sign for Buttercup Farm on right. Approximate travel time 2.5 hours. (*Continued next page.*)



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Huntington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
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May - June - July 2009



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Field Trips (Continued)

Directions to Ramshorn: For those who will be joining us just for the paddle at 12:30, take the New York State Thruway (I-87) to Exit 21. Turn left onto Rt 23B and stay straight until you reach Rt 9W. Turn right on Rt 9W South. From Rt 9W, turn left (east) onto Grandview Ave., drive around the circle, onto Dubois Road, and down the hill to the Sanctuary. Approximate travel time 3 hours from Huntington. Afterwards, we will go to Wurtsburo to spend the night (suggested hotel Days Inn: 845-888-2727.)

Sunday, May 24 – Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. The area supports characteristic breeding wetland-dependent species (Great Blue Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Moorhen) and abundant waterfowl. We will go to McDonald Road first to look for Golden-winged Warblers. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

Saturday, May 30, 7:00-9:00 PM – Prosser Pines County Nature Preserve, Yaphank. We'll be calling for the owls, listening for bats, southern flying squirrels, and any other interesting wildlife. Wear sturdy shoes since we'll be hiking off-trail in the dark. Bug repellent optional. Bring a flashlight. Leaders: biologist Eric Powers and Stella Miller. Call 631-241-0088 to register.

Directions: LIE (495) to exit 67 North. Head north on Rt 21 (called Yaphank Road, then Main Street in Yaphank, then Yaphank-Middle Island Road). About 2.9 miles from the Expressway, you pass the entrance to Cathedral Pines County Park on your left and then Longwood Road on

your right. Continue a half-mile further on Rt 21 and turn right into Prosser Pines Preserve parking lot.

Sunday, May 31, 9:00 AM – Audubon Center in Greenwich, CT and Fairchild Wildflower Garden. We'll look for birds in the 522-acre Audubon Sanctuary and then look for birds and spring flowers at the Fairchild Garden. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: From the Hutchinson River Parkway in the Bronx, exit to I-684 North. Take this to exit 3N and head north onto Rt 22. At the first light, turn right onto Rt 433. Drive 2 miles to the stop sign at the intersection of John St. The Audubon entrance gate is on your left.

June 2009

Sunday, June 7, 10:00 AM – Canoe Trip in Constitution Marsh, Cold Spring, NY. Eric Lind, a marsh naturalist, will lead us through winding channels lined with cattails and other marsh plants, identifying any wildlife observed. There is a \$20 fee for this two-hour trip, \$15 for children 7-15. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763). Must register by June 3rd.

Directions: Throgs Neck or Whitestone Bridge to Hutchinson River Parkway, to 287 West over Tappan Zee Bridge. Off at Exit 13 to Palisades Parkway North to Bear Mountain Bridge. Cross the Bear Mountain Bridge, turn left onto Rt 9D, go 8 miles north on 9D, through Garrison. Take a left onto Indian Brook Road (dirt road at bottom of hill after going over steel bridge), go ½ mile, parking area is on right by the sign.