

## The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

May – June – July 2011

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

### Birdathon 2010 - May 22

**Help Us Meet Our Goal and You Can Be a Winner!**



confident we can meet it!

It's that time of year again! Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon will once again be holding our annual Birdathon, one of our biggest fundraisers. Teams will be birding various locations across Long Island on **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We have set \$5,000 as our goal and with your help, we are

Participants seek sponsors for this Big Day when we diligently search and record as many species as possible. We usually see 100+ species.

Please consider joining the HOBAS Birdathon team. Join us for all or part of the day. Bring a friend or family member. Ask your friends to sponsor you. To up the ante, **the Birdathon team member who brings in the most donations will win a fantastic prize!** Contact Ginger Mahoney at 516-922-4599 if you would like to join a team.

If you cannot participate, please make a donation in support of Birdathon, or sponsor a team member. **Sponsors are entered to win fabulous prizes based on their sponsorship levels. Please keep an eye out for our Birdathon mailing with details.**

The prize drawing will be held at the June membership meeting, on June 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. You do not have to be present to win.

This support is crucial to our chapter. Help raise donations to support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter. Be assured that any donation you make will be used responsibly and that any amount will be greatly appreciated!

To get the latest news, schedule additions and changes, go to [www.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org)

### Crab Meadow – Fuchs Pond Needs You!

A new Crab Meadow – Fuchs Pond community support group is being formed to assist in preserving and protecting these vital watersheds. If you are interested in joining please contact Bill O'Brien, Fuchs Pond Nature Preserve Park Steward at [wsobrien@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:wsobrien@suffolk.lib.ny.us) or 631-261-3021. For more information read Ginny Mallons's blog <http://crabmeadownews.blogspot.com/p/fuchs-pond-preserve.html>.



- To all our members, past and present, who made our 50th Anniversary Dinner an evening to remember. It is all of you, who gave Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon it's rich and successful history and continue to make it the vital organization it is today.
- To Great South Bay Audubon and Steve D'Amato for the framed Killdeer photograph.
- To Michelle and Barman Sharifi and their wonderful staff at the Harbor Mist Restaurant, Cold Spring Harbor. Please visit them the next time you want a truly memorable dining experience. [www.harbormistrestaurant.com](http://www.harbormistrestaurant.com)
- To Dan Mahoney of Hollywood Banners, 539 Oak Street, Copiague, NY 11726 for donating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner. <http://www.hollywoodbanners.com>

### Membership Meetings

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

May 11, 2011:

*The Illegal Wildlife Trade: Devastating Wildlife Populations Around the World with Elizabeth Bennett, PhD*

June 8, 2011:

*Birds on the Brink: Conservation Threats Facing Our Feathered Friends with Christine Sheppard, PhD*

**See page 10 for details.**

### News from the President

Stella Miller



As I write this, it is only 45 degrees, but as I promised you in my last message, spring is here at last! Like clockwork, on frosty mid-February mornings we heard the first “konkaree's” of the Red-winged Blackbirds. Right on schedule, the Ospreys arrived next at their platforms in March. Now, I see Tree Swallows, Phoebe's, and other early migrants trickling in, reminding me that by the time you read this, migration will be in full swing, with birds arriving in droves. You don't have to be a birder like me to appreciate the beauty of birds, or to admire their wonderful melodies. Birds are traveling ambassadors, and as they journey from their wintering grounds in the tropics to their breeding grounds (whether that is here on Long Island or points further north), we must remember that many species are now in decline. I will save those details for another article, but in the meantime, in celebration of springtime migration, I wanted to pass along some information on how we can all do our part to help birds. John Turner and I have compiled the following tips:

**Drink shade-grown coffee** - Unlike sun-grown coffee which is produced in sterile monoculture environments devoid of most wildlife species, shade-grown coffee is grown beneath an intact tree canopy which provides habitat to hundreds of birds, mammals, and other wildlife species. While you are at it, help local people out too, and try to make sure the coffee you purchase is fair trade.

**Buy a duck stamp annually** - Officially known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the “duck stamp” is one of the most successful conservation initiatives ever conceived and the most conservation bang you can get for your buck. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sale of these stamps go directly towards the protection of habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge system. To date, over \$750 million has been used to purchase or lease over 5.3 million acres of wildlife habitat. There are approximately 553 refuges in the USA as of this year.

**Keep your cat(s) indoors** - The approximately 100 million feral and free-roaming cats in the country kill tens to hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals each year. While there is little you can do to prevent feral cat predation, you can play a role in reducing free-roaming cat predation by keeping your pet cat(s) indoors. Please.

**Support conservation organizations** - Local, regional, and national conservation organizations, which play such a vital role in achieving conservation success, simply would not exist without the financial support of individuals who care about conservation. Don't forget to renew your membership in Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon!

*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
Vice President	Blair Broughton	516-802-5356
Secretary	Ginger Mahoney	516-922-4599
Treasurer	Cathy Fitts	631-427-8623

#### Newsletter

Editor	Charlotte Miska	516-922-9710
--------	-----------------	--------------

#### 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.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org)**.

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

*News from the President (Continued)*

**Conduct citizen science** - Participating in the Christmas Bird Count, the Breeding Bird Census, Project Feeder Watch, or one of several other data gathering programs is an important way to contribute to science. These programs have been instrumental in broadening our understanding of bird populations such as population trends and changes in distribution.

**Become involved in the political process** - It's a simple but under-appreciated fact that elected officials, especially local ones, react to public opinion. If they get letters, phone calls, or comments advocating for a certain conservation action (e.g., preserving Plum Island) they often will respond. If you are willing to speak out, your voice can be a powerful tool for conservation.

**Limit your use or don't use pesticides** - Pesticides are designed to kill things and even when used according to the label can kill unintended targets. Use alternatives to pesticides and make changes to the conditions in your lawn and garden to eliminate the need for pesticides.

**Make other environmentally benign lifestyle changes** - In living our lives we all have an impact on the environment upon which birds depend. There are many things you can do to reduce your environmental footprint including recycling, composting, and using energy efficient light bulbs and appliances. Drive a gas efficient car, take public transportation or carpool. Buy locally grown produce and products.

**Buy recycled paper products** - The fluffy toilet tissue purchased by most Americans, and stocked in virtually all of our supermarkets, requires pulp containing long wood fibers found only in virgin timber (from live trees). When you use premium tissue, you flush down the toilet part of a tree that may have been felled solely for that purpose. And that tree may have been harvested from Canada's boreal forest, where 57 percent of Blackburnian warblers breed, along with a third of all North American songbirds. Remember, we may not all buy a newspaper or magazine each day. Perhaps we don't use paper towels on a daily basis, but I would bet my last dollar that we all use toilet paper each and every day!

**Wear your binoculars proudly** - When birding in popular birding spots, while stopping to get a bite to eat or pump gas, keep your binoculars visible around neck so that business patrons know why you're there. Your binoculars serve as a trigger to them to care about bird conservation in their local community, since they are benefiting economically from the presence of birds. Just put the bins down before you start to eat, crumbs in the eyepieces are very annoying.

**Take a child on a hike or birding** - We underestimate our ability to influence others, and fail to realize how impressionable children can be. Get kids excited about


birds, talk about how cool they are - their fascinating migratory feats, complex songs and calls, and well developed senses and coordination - and watch how your behavior piques an interest. Remember, today's children will grow up to be tomorrow's conservationists. You don't have to focus just on kids, talk up birds and nature to anyone you meet. Let them feel your enthusiasm!

**Protect birds from window collisions** - More birds are killed each year from striking windows than from any other direct cause of death, and the problem is growing as window sizes increase and houses get larger. Use window decals/stickers or cover your windows with blinds, awnings or shutters to minimize the reflection of the sky. One company that manufactures window stickers that have proven effective at reducing collisions is WindowAlert, available on the web at [www.windowalert.com](http://www.windowalert.com).

**Create a bird friendly yard** - Whether you have a tiny backyard or a big one, you can landscape for birds and other wildlife. Plant bushes, trees, and other plants that provide food, protection from predators, and resting spots during migration; provide nesting spots in cavities and dense shrubbery, leave leaf litter, and brushy corners where birds can feed and hide.

In the meantime, while you are mulling over the steps you can take to protect the birds we so admire, get outside and revel in the warmer weather. Come on one of our field trips or venture out on your own. The lovely days of spring and summer are so fleeting, which is why no matter how busy you are, you need to take the time to step outdoors and enjoy nature, even if it is just your backyard. Happy spring!





Many of our new members decided to join HOBAS 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 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 [stella.miller63@yahoo.com](mailto:stella.miller63@yahoo.com)).

## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Bill and Pat Reeves

More than 60 members, former members and guests of HOBAS gathered on Wednesday, March 30, at the Harbor Mist restaurant in Cold Spring Harbor to celebrate 50 years of education, conservation, and responsible recreation by our chapter of the National Audubon Society. The evening began with a cocktail hour followed by a buffet dinner. Distinguished guests included Huntington Councilman Mark Cuthbertson; Albert Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York; Steven D'Amato, a member of the Board of Directors of South Shore Audubon Society; Dr. Carl Safina, President of the Blue Ocean Institute and author of a newly published book, *The View From Lazy Point*; Helen Crosson, Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Public Library; Eileen Keenan, New York Sea Grant NEMO Program Manager; and Ted Scherff, Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center.



Over 60 people attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

The celebration was planned by Alice Del Bosco, Cathy Fitts, Maria Kelly, Ginger Mahoney, Charlotte Miska, Bill Reeves, and Pat Reeves. Everyone received a booklet containing the evening's program; a list of the current officers and directors of HOBAS and members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee; a narrative, arranged by decades, of highlights during the chapter's history; and a list of the 20 HAS/ HOBAS Presidents.

The 10 presidents who attended the dinner were Bill McAneny, Alex McKay, Bill Reeves, Linda Alexander, Alice Del Bosco, Tom Caggiano, Eleanore Seaton Polashock, Maria Kelly, Ginger Mahoney, and Stella Miller. The booklet ended with a cartoon by the late Creig Flessel depicting a haughty tern described as difficult to get along with after being banded by Sallie Ruppert. The front cover of the booklet featured the color print of a

Killdeer photograph taken by Steve D'Amato. Everyone also received a bookmark listing major chapter milestones from the time of our founding by 26 members in 1961 through 2011.



HOBAS presidents. First row: Maria Kelly, Alice Del Bosco, Linda Alexander, Stella Miller, Alex McKay, Second row: Bill McAneny, Ginger Mahoney, Bill Reeves, Tom Caggiano

During the cocktail hour people renewed contact with out-of-town attendees and reviewed a display of mementos and photos of chapter activities prepared by Ginger Mahoney. Accompanying the display was a computerized slide show provided by Marc and Sharon Brody. It contained photos from the early history of HAS provided by Bill and Shirley McAneny and others taken more recently by Marc Brody.

At the conclusion of the cocktail hour, Stella Miller, HOBAS President, welcomed everyone, described the evening's activities and thanked the planning committee. The first guest who spoke was Councilman Cuthbertson. He presented Stella Miller with a proclamation from the Town Board of Huntington commending HOBAS for our environmental accomplishments and contributions to the community during the past 50 years.



Huntington Town Councilman Mark Cuthbertson presenting proclamation to HOBAS President, Stella Miller

*Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Continued)*

After dinner Steve D'Amato presented Stella Miller with a framed 18" X 22" color print of his Killdeer photograph. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift to HOBAS from his chapter, Great South Bay Audubon Society. We are happy to announce that Helen Crosson, CSH Library Director, has indicated the library's willingness to permanently display the print with its identifying plaque, as well as the Town Board's proclamation, in the library's environmental center.



*Steve D'Amato, member of the Board of Directors of Great South Bay Audubon Society presents Killdeer photo to HOABS President, Stella Miller*

Al Caccese, Carl Safina, Eileen Keenan, Helen Crosson, and Ted Scherff spoke about their appreciation of the environmental education and conservation accomplishments of HAS/HOBAS. After sharing their recollections of experiences while serving on the HOBAS Board of Directors or working with our representatives to other environmental organizations, they described their current responsibilities and environmental concerns. They also expressed their expectations of continued mutual support by their organizations and HOBAS for selected environmental causes.



*Helen Crosson, Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Public Library and Al Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon NY*



*Eileen Keenan, New York Sea Grant NEMO Program Manager*

Prominently displayed in the dining room was a handsome banner proclaiming the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HOBAS. The banner was designed by Dan and Ginger Mahoney. Bill Reeves expressed the chapter's appreciation to them for their generous gift of the banner.



*Ted Scherff, Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center with his wife Mona*

The next activity was a member recognition event led by Ginger Mahoney. Ginger asked all members and former members of HAS/HOBAS to stand and then to sit down when the decades or years they joined were called out from 2011 all the way back to 1961. The last people standing were Bill and Shirley McAneny who joined early in 1962. Cathy Fitts donated their prize, a life-size replica of a Great Horned Owl. The McAnenys plan to display the owl on their farm overlooking Cayuga Lake in Trumansburg, NY. Bill shared some of his recollections of the founding and history of the chapter. He recalled that Janice Theile, founder of HAS, asked him to serve as president in 1962, stating that the organization needed a man in that position because civic leaders wouldn't pay significant attention to a woman president. It wasn't until 1975 that HAS finally elected a woman, Sallie Ruppert, to

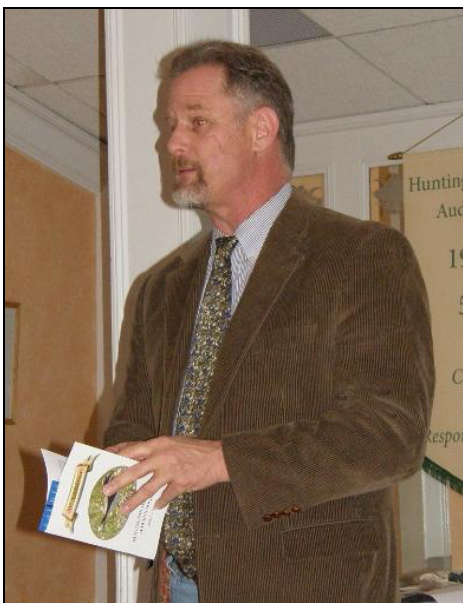
*Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Continued)*

become our president. We have had 10 men and 10 women as presidents with Alice Del Bosco serving twice. Since 1993 our last six presidents have been women.



*Former HOBAS president Bill McAneny accepts his prize*

The program concluded with remarks by John Turner about HOBAS's current environmental projects: the Keep Your Cats Indoors Campaign, proposed legislation on building design standards that will reduce collisions of birds with buildings, Plum Island Coalition activities, and the Youth Outreach Committee. John enthusiastically shared his vision of the future environmental education and activism that will add to our chapter's successes.



*John Turner gives concluding remarks about current projects*

Based on emails we have received, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner was a successful celebration and another significant milestone in HOBAS's history. Stella Miller wrote, "Everyone had a terrific time, the food was good, the speeches interesting... Thanks for all your hard work... a great time was had by all!" In Pat Aitken's thanks to the committee she summed up the event as follows: "The care and attention to details really showed. Many people who attended last night came a long distance. That shows how large a role HOBAS has played in their lives and how deeply they care about it. The organization is clearly held in high regard. We are fortunate to have such a great legacy."



### **The Land of the Towhee**

by Thomas Allen Stock

By a tea-colored pond  
 In a midsummer pine barren wood,  
 Aside a sandy trail,  
 I hear a call.  
 It sings . . .  
 "Drink your tea."  
 "Drink your tea."  
 "Drink your tea."  
 A rustling sound arises  
 In brittle Scrub Oak leaves.  
 A black-headed bird is there,  
 Scratching and picking in the litter.  
 A towhee,  
 With tannin-brown sides,  
 Black on its back,  
 A black tail  
 Outlined in white.  
 In these pine barrens,  
 The towhee invites me for tea  
 Among the pitch pines and oaks.

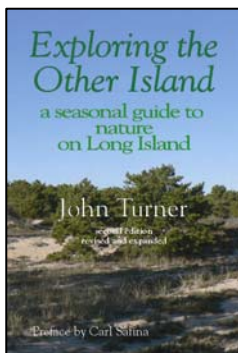
*Originally published in Cone Poems, A Chapbook Celebrating the LI Pine Barrens.*

*About the author: Tom Stock owes a lot to HOBAS. They got him going with a trip to Caumsett State Park before it was state operated. He saw a cormorant sitting on a boulder in the fog and immediately thought "I need more of this and my two daughters need me to show them." 40 years later – naturalist, poet, essay writer, pine barrens reporter – he thanks those guides who inspired him with their enthusiasm. Stock likes feedback. Give him a shout at 631-578-9220, e-mail him at [tstock39@gmail.com](mailto:tstock39@gmail.com), or send a letter to 20 Willow St, Babylon, N.Y. 11702.*

## A Bird's Eye (Re)View

Stella Miller

### John Turner's *Exploring The Other Island: A Seasonal Guide to Nature on Long Island*



*“To watch a flock of sandpipers or a small group of yellowlegs drop from the autumn sky with bodies and wings twisting in response to millisecond changes in aerodynamic conditions, to listen to their lonely, compelling calls is to experience utter wildness. The birds carry with them the desolation of the tundra.”*

With those words, John Turner perfectly expresses what I have always felt while listening to the plaintive cries of shorebirds, but was unable to articulate. This book is filled with lyrical prose such as this while being chock full of facts about the natural wonders of Long Island. From fish to birds to land animals to plants, Turner tells us what to look for and where to find it. But he directs us responsibly. Locations of sensitive species are not given, and I was impressed, although not surprised, to see his code of ethics on display. We are also encouraged to be responsible stewards of these precious creatures and habitats. One of HOBAS' tag lines is “responsible recreation” and that theme is evident throughout this book.

The book is divided by seasons and then broken down by species. For example, included in the section for springtime is a chapter on songbird migration, as well as spring ephemerals (for those of you who do not know what a “spring ephemeral is, I am certainly not going to tell you. Read the book to find out), salamanders and frogs. Summer brings us the horseshoe crab, but the chapter is not just a dry recounting of the natural history of this ancient animal. Turner discusses the crab's place in the web of life, how man's actions are impacting not just the crabs, but in a snowball effect, the shorebirds that depend upon the crabs for their survival. There is a domino effect to everything we do, as starkly illustrated here.

Did you know that there are habitats that depend on fire in order to proliferate? Or that skunks are carving out a living on Long Island? I bet you didn't know that cranberries were a booming business right here on the Island. Read the book and you will discover not only these tidbits, but others as well!

Most folks are not aware of the various species of orchids and parasitic plants that flourish here. They do not realize that in the fall, one can see hundreds of hawks in one afternoon, while visiting the Fire Island Hawk Watch, or

catch waves upon waves of shorebirds at our barrier beaches. A good number of Long Islanders most likely believe that Long Island is devoid of wildlife during the cold and windy days of winter. As one of the premier wintering spots for waterfowl, the Island comes alive with vast gatherings of these birds. Furthermore, when we think migration in winter, we assume that the general travel direction points south. This is true but, in a reverse pattern, Long Island is the winter spot for many of our far northern species. Snowy, Saw-whet, and Long-eared Owls, Redpolls, and Crossbills are just a few of these hardy visitors, and the barrier beaches are terrific spots to spy them as they roost and forage. Other wonderful winter species are the seals. Plum Island is one of the most significant winter seal haul out sites in southern New England. Oh, did I just get a shameless plug in for preserving Plum Island? You bet I did!

This book is an informative and lively guide to all things natural on Long Island. Long Island is not just shopping malls, highways, and developments. One does not have to look very far to find the magic of nature. Open up this book and let John Turner take you on a seasonal tour of natural Long Island. It will whet your appetite to explore the “Other Island” for real!

While you can purchase copies of this book on Amazon.com, HOBAS has signed copies available and all proceeds will go directly to us!

## Out on a Limb

Alex McKay

Driving to the HOBAS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on March 30, I found myself remembering friends and experiences from my many years with the society. Apt word - “society.” On the dinner program I found myself quoted when I once answered the question, “What is the Huntington Audubon Society?” with one word - “people.” To that I would add now memories and experiences - so many I can only give a sampling here.

I remembered my first encounter with Audubon when I tried to find out what to do with a large bird found covered with ice in my driveway following a January ice storm. Somehow I was led to Betty Allen, the wondrous bird lady of Centerport who was a founding member of HAS and who led me to Wes Lanyon of the Metropolitan Museum of Natural History at the Kalbfleish Preserve in Dix Hills.

He showed my bird (a Red-throated Loon) in the first field guide I ever saw. We named it “Homer,” fed it smelt, warned it in a huge box in our basement, and finally released it along Asharoken Beach to Long Island Sound to the amazement or amusement of the policeman who questioned our presence. (*Continued on page 8.*)

*Out on a Limb (Continued)*

So began my fascination with birds and, through Betty, attending my first Audubon meeting at the Huntington library, joining field trips, and beginning a whole new association of friends and memories. My learning curve with birds soared as I learned from Audubon presidents – the three Bills – McAneny, Goleeke, and Reeves. I remember Christmas count Bluebirds and a Yellow-breasted Chat with Goleeke, scoping and sorting dowitchers and sandpipers at Jamaica Bay with Reeves, and McAneny's faultless ability to name birds at a glance or from a note descending the air.

I became HAS president myself and involved us in the first Earth Day, joined in the DDT and Sevin wars, met with Elvis Starr and Charlie Callison of National Audubon and members of the Roosevelt family in Oyster Bay to begin the effort to keep the TR Sanctuary as an Audubon facility, lobbied the town to preserve open space and parkland, joined the effort to ban phosphates in detergents, testified to protect the Mourning Dove from becoming a gamebird, and advocated for environmental education in the school curriculum. Those were the days!

So many memories – meeting and introducing Roger Tory Peterson at the Wildlife Film Series in Elwood – rescuing a Canada goose entangled in fishing line at Fuchs Pond with Sallie and Allan Ruppert, leaving my wife babysitting a box full of young kestrels while Sallie and I checked the tern colony at Sand City, bringing a wing-shot loon to Sallie where it took up residence in her bathtub, and marveling at Sallie's skilled hands as she held and banded tern chicks.

Again at Sand City seeking and finding a Snowy Owl with Howard Boltston or monitoring plover's nests with Jerry Hannon. Again at Fuchs Pond finding and photographing a Prothonotary Warbler with Pat Santora. Bluebird houses at Caumsett with Herman Wenz and Birdie and Leon Lewis, clearing brush at TR with Don Vorrath and Dave Taylor, family picnics at Elizabeth Morton and getting lost and stumbling into a formal garden party following the undaunted Irene Parks. So many wonderful times and people I cannot name them all.

Just a few more to end with - meetings at the home of George Aery, who, in spite of his handicap, remained active and cheerful and edited *Killdeer* for many years. Editing *Killdeer* myself and featuring the drawings of young Tim O'Connor and the cartoons of Craig Flessel on the cover, and now writing (with Maria Kelly and Charlotte Miska's urging) "Out on a Limb" so long as I have experiences, information, and ideas to share.

Get involved with HOBAS during the next 50 years. You won't regret a moment.

**Think About This**

Bill McAneny

Fifty short years ago women did not want to be president of this Audubon chapter. Why not? Because "men wouldn't listen to them."

The first year of our founding, a young man by the name of Hugh Pembleton was president, but he wanted to depart for other adventures. I got a call from our founder, Janice Thiele, asking if I would become the next president. I said, "Janice, I am not even a member." She said there was an obvious solution to that. So I asked why she couldn't find a competent woman among her members to take the position. That's when she told me nobody would listen to a woman.

Now, Janice was highly competent. She went on to found two other Audubon chapters. Do you know anybody – man or woman – who could do that? This was a year or so after *Silent Spring* was published. It has become a milestone in conservation and it was written by a woman, Rachel Carson. I agreed to become president and I was taught conservation by another woman – Betty Allen. You may know of a park with her name.

I don't know where this perception of no power came from but it persisted in our chapter. The first six presidents were men. Our seventh president was a person who insisted to me that she "couldn't do it." But she had created Volunteers for Wildlife, and Sallie Ruppert reluctantly became president number seven. By now it was 1975. Something was stirring. Of our next 14 presidents after Sallie, 10 were women. Not only were men listening to women, but many male civil servants who "wouldn't listen" had been replaced by women who would. How about that? All this was happening in my own lifetime, and probably yours, too.

All you young women who teach, give speeches, write letters, legislate, and otherwise express yourselves should praise the silent women who preceded you but worked hard to give you a gift they themselves did not have. In many countries of the world, women still don't have a voice. Now that's something that needs to be corrected, and you have the power to do it. Or do I have something wrong? Think about it.



## Legislative Update

John Turner

HOBAS continues to make progress on several important conservation issues including the preservation of the federally-owned 843-acre Plum Island, and two New York State legislative initiatives: addressing fatal bird-window collisions and the conservation of seahorses. Following is a brief synopsis of work on two HOBAS priorities:

### Plum Island

Over the past few months, representatives from HOBAS and other environmental organizations, whom are playing a leading role in the work of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition, met with federal elected officials to discuss Plum Island and our efforts to reverse the sale of the island and have it dedicated as a National Wildlife Refuge.



Specifically, we have met with representatives from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's and Congressman Peter King's office and Congressman Tim Bishop himself. The purpose of the meeting with the first two was to introduce the issue to them while the meeting with Congressman Bishop was designed to strategize about specific action steps he and the Coalition could undertake.

At the NY State Legislature level we were successful in having NY State Senator Ken LaValle (R-Selden) and Assemblyman Dan Losquadro (R-Calverton) introduce a "Sense of the Legislature Resolution". While it carries not effect or weight of law, it states to the world the collective view of the 212 members of the New York State Legislature; and their collective view is in support of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition's position of preserving the island as a National Wildlife Refuge!

We have also met with Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine (R-Riverhead) whose district contains Plum Island. Not only does Legislator Romaine supports the Coalition's position of preserving the Island he has joined the Coalition!

We will continue to work with elected officials at all levels of government in our goal of preserving the Island. For more information regarding the issue visit the Preserve Plum Island Coalition's website at [www.preserveplumisland.org](http://www.preserveplumisland.org). Be sure to sign the petition calling for Plum Island to become a refuge, reachable at [www.thepetitionsite.com/1/preserve-plum-island](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/preserve-plum-island).

## Seahorse Legislation

Many Long Islanders don't realize seahorses are found in the coastal waters around Long Island. But they do in the form of northern or lined seahorses (*Hippocampus erectus*), found in the waters around Long Island in the summer, often frequenting eel grass beds in the south shore bays. Even fewer realize there is an unregulated commercial trade in seahorses with many ending up in local pet stores where they are offered as novelty pets. Unfortunately most die shortly after purchase since seahorses are very difficult to keep alive in captivity.



To stop this exploitation, HOBAS approached NY State Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-Setauket) and Senator Ken LaValle (R-Selden) with sponsoring a measure to prohibit the capture of seahorses. They were both receptive and introduced legislation (A. 2439/S.2324). The Assembly bill passed out of the Environmental Conservation Committee on March 15, 2011. It is now in the Codes Committee. The Senate bill is still in the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. We hope this legislation will pass both houses and be sent to Governor Cuomo for his approval.



### 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-Oyster Bay 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



## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Membership meetings and most activities of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, 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 2011

**Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *The Illegal Wildlife Trade: Devastating Wildlife Populations Around the World with Elizabeth Bennett, PhD.* Hunting, for the commercial wildlife trade, is draining wildlife from lands across the globe. Tonight we will discuss the scope of illegal wildlife trafficking, the various branches of it, and the solutions that could help bring an end to this despicable trade. Elizabeth Bennett is the Vice President for Species Conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

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

### June 2011

**Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Birds on the Brink: Conservation Threats Facing Our Feathered Friends with Christine Sheppard, PhD.* Birds are in trouble. We have all heard about habitat loss, but did you know that countless numbers of birds are killed by colliding into windows and predated on by free roaming cats each year? Tonight we will discuss why bird populations are severely declining, the top three causes, and what we can do to staunch the flow of loss. Christine Sheppard serves as the Bird Collisions Campaign Manager at the American Bird Conservancy.

**Sunday, June 12 – 10:00 AM –English Ivy Pull at Shu Swamp** – Join HOBAS in helping to restore Shu Swamp, one of the finest preserves on Long Island. English Ivy, an invasive species, continues to spread throughout the Preserve, threatening native wildflowers such as trillium, trout beauty, spring beauty, and dwarf ginseng. Last year, we made a huge dent in pulling out garlic mustard, another invasive. This year we set our sights on ivy! Please wear comfortable clothes and bring garden gloves if you have them. Meet in the main parking lot. Leader: John Turner, 516-695-1490.

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

### July 2011

**Tuesday, July 5** – Deadline for August-September-October *Killdeer*.

### Birders' Box

**Sunday, February 27.** Six participants braved early morning rain and saw a total of 50 species on the **Montauk** trip with leader Sharon Brody. Highlights were the 3 scoters, the 3 mergansers, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes, Common Eider, Great and Double-crested Cormorants, American Coot, Iceland Gull, and Boat-tailed Grackle.

**Sunday, March 6.** Blair Broughton led a trip to **Massapequa Preserve and Twin Ponds** in Wantagh. 4 participants braved the rainy day. Best birds of the short day were a female Goldeneye, Northern Shoveler, American Coot, Hooded Merganser, and Ring-necked Duck.

**Saturday, March 19.** As Sharon Brody as their leader 13 people went to **Jamaica Bay**. Sharon found some gems including Horned grebe, Snow Goose, Ruddy Duck and a rare LI sighting of a Turkey Vulture. They also had Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Tree Swallows, White-breasted Nuthatch and the Common Grackle to list a few of their sightings..

**Sunday, March 27.** We had 18 people come and go as we visited **Shuswamp and Sagamore Hill**. At Shu Swamp we saw Wood Ducks, 3 Osprey, Grackles, White-throated Sparrows, and uncovered a few salamanders. At Sagamore Hill, seen were a pair of Eastern Bluebirds, Turkey Vulture, Horned Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tail Duck, and Bufflehead.

**Sunday, April 10.** Sharon Brody led 15 participants on a walk at **Jones Beach** where they saw 38 species. Highlights were Northern Gannet, Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Forster's Tern, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Field Sparrow.

**Sunday April 17.** Eight birders led by Blair Broughton enjoyed the wonderful landscape and history of the **Greenwood Cemetery** in Brooklyn. Everyone got to see the target bird - the Monk Parakeet. Other notable sightings included Palm and Pine Warbler, Barn Swallow, Eastern Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Snowy Egret, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, and the Eastern Towhee.

**Species seen on 2011 HOBAS trips is 100.**



## 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.

### May 2011

**Sunday, May 1, 7:30 AM – Central Park Warbler Madness.** Central Park is one of the finest spots for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Join us as we search for early migrants throughout the park's hotspots. **Leaders:** Jacob Drucker and Stella Miller. Call Stella Miller 516-695-0763 to register.

**Directions:** Meet at the Boathouse in Central Park., easily accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave near 76<sup>th</sup> St. Walk downhill veering left past the Alice in Wonderland statues, by the right side of the sailboat pond then toward the right, up the hill, cross the roadway and to the Boathouse.

**Sunday, May 8, 9:00 AM – Jamaica Bay.** – Once again we will be heading to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, but this time at the height of spring migration. If the conditions are right, the gardens should be filled with migrant warblers and other assorted songbirds. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

**Directions:** Southern State Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd south, exit 17S. 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 22, 6:45 AM – Birdathon!** Special Fundraiser All Day Event! You are welcome to participate for all or part of the day and to leave at any time. Begin at the parking lot on 76<sup>th</sup> Ave of Alley Pond Park, then Forest Park, then Jamaica Bay. Expect to see at least 100 species of birds. This is a major fundraiser and lots of fun. Join us or sponsor a participant! For information, call Ginger Mahoney 516-922-4599. (See article on page 1.)

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

### June 2011

**Sunday, June 5, 3:00 PM – Caumsett State Park** – An easy nature hike. We will pass through fields, forest, salt marsh, and shoreline, while learning about the wildlife, vegetation, and geology of this lovely park. **Leaders:** Peter Martin and Stella Miller. Call Stella Miller 516-695-0763 to register.

**Directions:** Route 25A into Huntington Village, turn onto West Neck Road, then head north to park, which will be on the left. Please note there is a parking fee of \$8. Meet at main lot.

**Saturday, June 11, 8:00-10:030 PM – Owl Prowl at Prosser Pines County Nature Preserve, Yaphank.** We'll be listening for owls, southern flying squirrels, and any other interesting wildlife we encounter. Wear sturdy shoes since we'll be hiking off-trail in the dark. Bug repellent optional. Bring a flashlight. **Leaders:** Stella Miller and Brent Bomkamp. Call 516-695-0763 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 Pine 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, June 12, 9:00 AM – Hempstead Plains.** We will mostly be admiring the unique flora on this vestige of the once vast prairie as well as grassland birds. We will learn about efforts to save this rare habitat. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

**Directions:** Meadowbrook Pkwy to exit M4. Follow signs to Coliseum and Charles Lindbergh Blvd. Turn right into NCC East Parking Area. See Hempstead Plains straight ahead at first intersection.





# killdeer

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

Forwarding Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Huntington, NY  
Permit No. 546

May – June – July 2011

## OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Printed on recycled paper.

### Did You Know?



Earth Day 1990, the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day, was a four-day event celebrated by the Town of Huntington. The HAS display emphasized the importance of recycling. Wise use of pesticides and fertilizers were topics covered at subsequent Earth Day celebrations. When the West Nile Virus appeared at the end of the decade,

HAS urged caution in the use of broadcast spraying to control mosquitoes in Suffolk County. The Town of Huntington Conservation Board honored HAS as the first organization to provide volunteer stewards for Huntington's parks.

HAS hosted a hearing on Long Island Sound as part of the National Audubon Society's *Listen to the Sound Campaign* in June 1990. HAS advocated for improvement of the Sound's water quality. The chapter continued to provide Audubon Adventures as a program for local elementary school children. Bill McAneny generated increased participation by HAS members in National Audubon Society's Armchair Activists Letter of the Month Club.

Field trips included many out-of-town and weekend trips to Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Cape May, NJ for fall migration birding; Hook Mountain in Rockland County for migrating hawks; Rio Reservoir in the Delaware

River Watershed of the Catskills for wintering Bald Eagles; and Doodletown near Bear Mountain in Orange County for spring warblers. Other productive trip destinations included Bashakill Wildlife Management Area near Wurtsboro in Sullivan County, Moonbeams Sanctuary in Orange County, and the White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield, CT. Trips also visited NWRs such as Great Swamp, NJ; Bombay Hook, DE; and Chincoteague, VA. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable field trip leaders Bob May, Howard Boltson, Sharon Bart, and Maria Kelly led these popular outings. Mid-week trips led by former HAS presidents began in September 1996.

Connections to other organizations were strengthened by participation of HAS officers and directors in the leadership and programs of the Long Island and New York State Audubon Councils. Alice Del Bosco represented HAS on the Board of Directors of the Audubon Council of New York State. Bill Reeves continued as the HAS representative to the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (now NYSOA). HAS officers attended annual conventions of the National Audubon Society. Members traveled to visit our sister Audubon chapter at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico which conducts conservation programs in public schools. HAS was represented on the Town of Huntington's Environment, Open Space and Park Advisory Committee.