

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

November – December 2010

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

We will miss you, Petie



Petie Szabo has been an invaluable member of Huntington Audubon for over 10 years. She has been the Treasurer since the spring of 2000 and also served a year simultaneously as Recording Secretary in 2003-4. The role of Treasurer is a demanding one with duties that require expertise and attention

literally all year long. The usual tasks as treasurer were magnified when Petie switched the records from hand recorded to computerized and when Huntington Audubon's name was changed to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon the paperwork involved in that change with bank accounts and other official records was much more complex than one would imagine. But Petie performs all the tasks efficiently, competently, and cheerfully whether it is preparing budgets, tax filings, having checks ready for speakers, the newsletter, or fundraising activities. Her succinct, accurate writing style was much appreciated when she served as Secretary. Her commitment to conservation, her thoughtful reflection on issues at hand, her ability to hone in on essentials and discard trivial distractions have been great assets for us at Board meetings.

That Petie has been a very active member is an understatement. She has attended virtually all membership meetings since joining Audubon where we have often heard her infectious laugh. She hardly ever missed a meeting of the Board of Directors since she became Treasurer. And she has been a regular volunteer at the Bird Seed Sale, the Garage Sale, and has helped man tables at many festivals over the years.

We are sorry that she is leaving us, but we do understand. A longtime Huntington resident, Petie just retired as a

professor of anatomy at a local college and is moving to North Carolina to be near her daughter and grandchildren. We thank you, Petie. We will miss you. We wish you all the best.

HOBAS can earn a donation every time you search the Internet or shop online!



Search the web with Yahoo-powered **GoodSearch.com** and they'll donate a penny to

our cause each time you search! Shop at more than 1,300 **GoodShop.com** merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of each purchase will go to HOBAS. Basically, it works like this: For a search, use GoodSearch instead of Google. Type in your favorite charity (which is of course HOBAS). Then, do your search. We get a penny for every search.

Next, shopping. Say you already shop on amazon.com. Don't go to the site directly, instead, go to GoodSearch, click on GoodShop, choose HOBAS as your charity, then amazon.com as your merchant, and a percentage of what you spend will be donated to us. Different merchants donate different amounts. It's that easy!

Be part of the enjoyment



We are planning a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Huntington Audubon (renamed Huntington - Oyster Bay Audubon just last year).

At the dinner we will have visual displays including photos and newspaper articles, etc. Please send us any such thing for us to share. We will return the material to you so be sure to put your name on the back of anything you want returned. You have plenty of time since the dinner is not until **March 30, 2010**. But if you come across items earlier, please send them right away to Alice Del Bosco, 22 West Neck Rd. Huntington, NY 11743. We have already started compiling items. If you cannot attend but want to share a story about your experiences with HAS, please write it so we can read it to the guests and mail that to Alice. Thanks. (*Dinner details will be in the next issue.*)

Membership Meetings

Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

November 10, 2010:

*The Amazing Audible Courtship
Display of Manakins,
with Kimberly S. Bostwick, PhD*

December 8, 2010:

*Reptiles: Everything You Ever Wanted
to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask
with Peter Warny*

See page 6 for details.

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.

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Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert	212-979-3070
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For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	631-423-0982
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You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.hobaudubon.org.

E-mail us at has@huntingtonaudubon.org.

News from the President

Stella Miller

Ah, Autumn. This is my favorite time of year. It is hiking season. The days are warm and the nights are cool. The birds are hurrying south, the owls are starting to call again, and the trees will soon be cloaked in a riot of fiery colors. To me, it is the most delightful of the seasons and over way too soon. As fall fades into winter, one feels a sense of urgency to pack as many outdoor activities in before we are enveloped in the cold blanket of winter. While I am enjoying as much time outside as I possibly can, I did participate in one special indoor activity that was well worth staying inside for.

On September 23, 2010, the Youth Outreach Committee (YOC) visited the Broadlawn Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Amityville. This was our third visit to a nursing home in a year, thanks to our *Bringing Teens and Seniors Together, Bridging the Generation Gap Through Nature* program.



Seniors learning about native birds.

We began this program in early 2009. Many seniors are living in relative isolation, or are physically incapable of going outside to enjoy nature the way they used to. The YOC visits nursing homes to present programs on birds in order to help re-connect seniors to the natural world. Pairing teenagers with seniors through

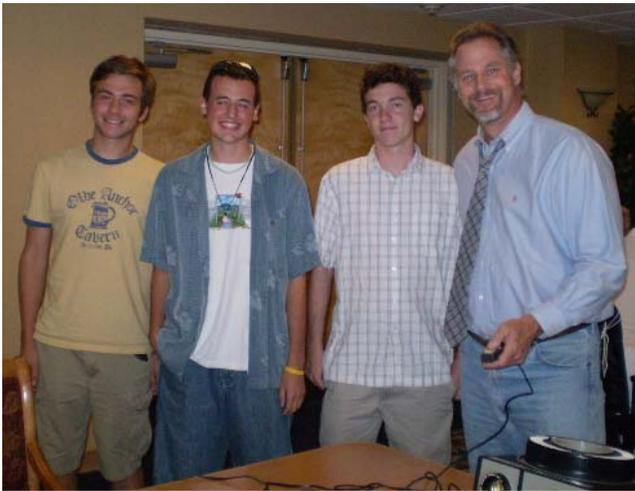
nature education builds mutual respect between generations. Birds make an ideal focus for learning and enjoyment, and after learning about our native birds, even seniors who are wheelchair-bound can either go outside or look out a window to enjoy the antics and activities of birds.

On this night, after a brief introduction, we presented a slide show on the birds of Long Island. We were very impressed to find that some of the residents really knew their birds. Once the program was wrapped up, it was time to let loose and play Birdy Bingo!

Bird Bingo consists of a card which depict birds instead of the typical numbers usually found on a bingo board. As I

President's Message (Continued)

called out the bird species, the other YOC members, John Turner, Brent Bomkamp, Vinny Pellegrino, and Brendan Fogarty helped the residents with their boards. As the residents smiled, laughed, called out BINGO! and exclaimed over their prizes, we were deeply touched to witness the joy that our visit brought to the nursing home that night. Brent, Brendan, and Vinny should be commended for their efforts in this program. Most 17 year olds would not even consider visiting a nursing home like this even once, but Brent, Brendan, and Vinny consistently show up, give it their all and most importantly, care and enjoy what they are doing. This was John's senior program debut and he did, as always, a fantastic job!



L-R: Brent Bomkamp, Vinny Pellegrino, Brendon Fogarty, and John Turner at Broadlawn

We are scheduled to visit another nursing home in November and if anyone has artwork or photography they would like to donate for prizes we would greatly appreciate it!

Out on a Limb

Alex McKay

To NIMBY or not to NIMBY? That is the question.

“Not in my back yard” – the cry of opponents of projects from wind farms to parks and planned developments has long had a negative connotation. NIMBYies stand in the way of progress, of environmental benefits, of change, but there are occasions when NIMBYism may be the rallying cause of saving neighborhoods, communities, and established ways of life. NIMBYism is not necessarily a pejorative.

A couple of recent examples illustrate the point. The wind farm wars in several small upstate communities are highlighted in a recently released film *Windfall*

documenting the uprising in Meridith, in Delaware county, that unseated town officials and defeated a wind turbine deal that promised unanticipated revenue and the chance to do the right environmental thing – renewable energy in place of global warming. But the specter of 400-foot high towers and 130-foot wide blades whooshing at over 170 miles per hour turned out the local Don Quixotes who valued their rural landscape and peaceful community.

A similar victory was scored in nearby Andes, but not so in Tug Hill and Cape Vincent on the Saint Lawrence River. In Tug Hill, in the western Adirondacks, a 12 by 3 mile stretch is occupied by 195 wind turbines. One unhappy native of the area is reported saying, “Would you consider retiring in my home?” Who of us would welcome towering turbines in back yards and front yards, in fields of vision and hearing, day in and day out for essentially the rest of our lives? In Cape Vincent, town and planning board members with lease agreements with wind companies approved a turbine project over local opposition. The attorney general is investigating conflict of interest charges. How about YIMBY for those who stand to gain from development proposals?

Closer to home, we have the recent example of the Avalon Bay development proposal in Huntington Station, a \$100 million project with 490 housing units on 26 acres a half-mile from Huntington's railroad station in a projected Transportation Oriented District (TOD). The idea of such a district was supported by smart growth advocates, the Long Island Progressive Coalition, Sustainable Long Island, the Long Island Regional Planning Council, Vision Long Island, and individual citizens and town board members. But NIMBYists stood strong in opposition with backyards from Dix Hills to Huntington Bay feeling threatened by increased traffic, pressure on local schools and facilities, and the threat of TODs in other parts of town. The final town board hearing on the project was raucous and, as reported in *Newsday*, “just plain mean.” The board, in a 3-2 vote, quashed the proposal – game, set, and match to the NIMBYies.

The backyards of Long Island extend to Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. We have said no to Broadwater, the Liquified Natural Gas installation that promised clean, economical natural gas for New York and Connecticut. Several offshore electrical wind farms are in various stages of challenge and review. While we all recognize the need reduce the size of our carbon footprints and to concentrate new development near existing centers to reduce sprawl, we hesitate when our horizons and communities become crowded with the structures and infrastructure required to provide alternate sources of energy and growth. Reducing and controlling global warming will require some sacrifice – but in whose backyards?

Welcome New TRS Director

HOBAS joins in welcoming Ted Scherff, the new director of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center. His appointment was announced by Audubon New York on August 5, 2010 after a nationwide search. Ted Scherff is a dedicated conservationist and environmental educator and will be helping to continue to expand Audubon's education efforts to connect thousands of Long Island residents and schoolchildren to the wonders of nature. He is also a new HOBAS member and we look forward to seeing him at our monthly membership meetings.

"From the earliest days of my conservation career I have admired the National Audubon Society as a world leader connecting people with their natural environment. I am honored to serve Audubon New York and the citizenry of Long Island under the banner of America's conservation president, Theodore Roosevelt," said Director Scherff.



Prior to taking the reins at TRSAC, Mr. Scherff had 30 years professional experience in natural resource stewardship, environmental education, and public land administration; including 15 years experience in nature center administration and nonprofit volunteer organization management; and 13 years experience in community-based conservation. Most recently he worked as park manager, in the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation at Winchester Lake State Park, where he provided team-oriented leadership and management and led his staff in a creative approach to implement: environmental education, visitor services, natural/cultural resource stewardship, public relations and presentations, community-wide special events, volunteer services, and varied multi-organizational collaborative endeavors.

A Birds Eye View

Stella Miller



On Thin Ice by Richard Ellis

Polar bears. Who doesn't love a polar bear? Cute, fluffy and roly poly as cubs, majestic and beautiful as adults: they are the quintessential poster child for wildlife and not many are indifferent to them. When I picked up this book, I thought I knew all there was to know about *ursus maritimus*. After all, bears (especially brown bears) have been my favorite animal since I was 10 and I already own 30 books about these magnificent creatures. As I dug into this absorbing book, I found myself learning about the long (and for the bear, deadly) relationship between humans and polar bears. *On Thin Ice* offers a remarkable glimpse into the life of the polar bear, both past and present.

Ever since man first encountered polar bears, the big white bear has received the short end of the stick. Unfairly persecuted, hunted, and harassed, early explorers killed, maimed, and captured bears indiscriminately. It is painful to read these accounts of the suffering mankind has inflicted on polar bears. Ellis takes these accounts and stories and weaves them into a sad but intensely interesting timeline of history. Starting in the year 1056, we journey with Ellis until present day, learning about the natural history of this great bear along the way. We also learn the

detrimental impact climate change is having on polar bears and their habitat.

Polar bears are among the largest carnivores on earth, surpassed only by another bear, the Kodiak (*Ursus arctos middendorffi*), a subspecies of the brown bear. An adult female can reach 700 pounds, while a male can top the scales at 1500 pounds. Because they are only found in polar regions, polar bears are superbly adapted to their icy living conditions. Thick fur, covering even their feet (for traction), along with a layer of blubber (up to 40% of the animals weight can be fat) allows this predator to be the master of its domain and reign supreme at the top of the food chain.

Because their habitat is surrounded by water, these marine bears are excellent swimmers. On land, they might look large and ungainly, but don't let that fool you. Like all bears, polar bears are capable of running at speeds up to 35 mph. Of course, in order to conserve energy and prevent overheating, the bears do not spend their time running about. When you are the biggest and baddest in the neighborhood, you can afford to relax. So they spend a lot of time sleeping. They will wait, immobile, for hours at a breathing hole, biding their time until the precise moment a hapless seal pops out to take a breath. Then, with one powerful blow of their forepaw, dinner is served. An adult polar bear is massively muscled, strong and able to haul prey over 600 pounds. One swipe of that deadly

Bird's Eye View (Continued)

paw can easily kill a 500-pound seal. Although they will take advantage of other food sources, such as beluga whales, sea birds and their eggs, young walrus and fish, their diet consists mainly of seal. Mating takes place from March through June and the female bear then experiences what is known as delayed implantation. During this process, the fertilized ovum divides itself several times and then floats freely in the uterus until, after about six months, it reattaches itself to the uterine wall to resume development. If the bear has had a poor time of it and she has not put on enough fat reserves, the embryo will not implant. Only a pregnant female will hibernate and if the embryo is viable, the cubs will be born in their den between November and January and will stay with their mothers for a couple of years.

Ellis discusses the various populations around the world in great detail. It is fascinating to learn about the remarkable relationship that many native peoples have with the bear and to learn how human impact, most notably climate change, is pushing the polar bear to the brink. Because they are dependent on sea ice as a hunting platform, as the polar ice melts into the sea, so does the bear's ability to successfully hunt. Polar bears are excellent swimmers, but that is not how they stalk and capture their prey. They do it by waiting on the ice for the perfect moment to grab their food source as it surfaces to breathe. Because of ice melt, seals have been forced to move into more inaccessible areas, thereby depriving bears of their prey. In addition, as our temperature warms, there is less snow for females to dig dens. Currently, there are only about 22,000 bears left in the wild, down about 50% in just 20 years.

After reading this book, I thought about all the "Global Warming Naysayers" out there. I thought, how can they deny this is happening? The Arctic is one of the regions that will show the results of climate change most rapidly. It is the perfect petri dish in which to demonstrate what is happening to our planet while the polar bear is an ideal specimen, illustrating with unfortunate clarity what happens to a species when the environment that it was superbly suited for undergoes a swift and severe change. No longer the dominant species in polar regions (for man has taken on that mantle and is thus destroying its habitat, livelihood, and future), the polar bear now struggles to survive.

For hundreds of years, we have harassed, killed and conquered this remarkable animal. What we are inflicting on it now, through our impact on climate, is just the final indignity. We can change this. We must change this. The polar bear is not the only animal on the edge of extinction thanks to climate change. But, he is surely one of our most well known and beloved and thus, the perfect ambassador for why we need to take action now! It is not too late, but

at the rate we are going, it will not be too long before it is.

This is an important as well as entertaining book and I was captivated by it. I hope you will be too.

Save the Date: February 5th - All day field trip to Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island. Look for details in next issue.



Do you have too much paper? We can help by sending you the *Killdeer* via e-mail rather than

getting a paper copy in the US Mail. All you need to do is visit www.hobaudubon.org and sign up for our Email List using the form on the sidebar. Then send an e-mail to has@huntingtonaudubon.org and let us know that you no longer want to receive a paper copy of the *Killdeer*. If you have all ready signed up for our Email List, just send an e-mail letting us know you no longer want to receive a paper copy of the *Killdeer*.

To get the latest news, schedule additions and changes, go to www.hobaudubon.org.

Membership Application

Chapter No. RO2

Membership in National Audubon includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine and all the benefits of being a local chapter member. As a member of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, you will receive our newsletter and an open invitation to all our meetings, field trips, and events.

- New National Audubon Society member for \$20 (includes *Audubon* magazine) **Make check payable to National Audubon**
- Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine) **Make check payable to Huntington-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.

November 2010

Wednesday, November 10, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *The Amazing Audible Courtship Display of Manakins with Kimberly S. Bostwick, PhD.* Learn about the incredible mating rituals performed by manakins, a family of small bird species of subtropical and tropical Central and South America. The Club-winged Manakin, “violins” its wings in order to make sound, which requires both a special instrument (its feathers), and special “skills,” in this case extremely rapid wing motions and unusual wing postures. The Red-capped Manakin performs an amazing (and hilarious) moon walk dance. Dr. Kim Bostwick is the Curator of Birds & Mammals at Cornell University.

Wednesday, November 17, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

December 2010

Wednesday, December 1 – Deadline for January-February Killdeer.

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Reptiles: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask with Peter Warny.* This illustrated program will depict and discuss the current state of reptile populations, from Maine to Florida, in both urban and rural landscapes. Trendy topics such as exotic species, climate change, and habitat management will be mentioned along with radio telemetry, discrete monitoring, trail cameras, and decoys.

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

January 2010

Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Mammals of Long Island with Mike Bottini.* Grey foxes? Skunks? River Otters? Weasels? Flying Squirrels? Did you know that Long Island is home to these species? Tonight we will discuss the wild mammals currently found here, including interesting facts about their life histories, as well as those species that have been extirpated from Long Island but are found elsewhere in New York and nearby states. Mike Bottini is a veteran naturalist, outdoor educator, and environmental consultant.

Wednesday, January 19, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Birders' Box

On September 12, 16 people joined Sharon Brody at Jamaica Bay, despite the threat of rain. 50 species were seen including Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Common Loon, Glossy Ibis, and Osprey. Highlights also include Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and Great and Snowy Egret. Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, and Northern Harrier. There were Semi-palmated Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers. Landbirds included Tree and Barn Swallows, Yellow Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Eastern Towhee.

September 19, at Sands Point Preserve and Leeds Pond, 13 participants enjoyed a beautiful morning for birding with Blair Broughton leading. The highlights included Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstarts, Wood Thrush, and Veery. Three different Vireos were seen: Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, and Philadelphia. Also seen were Great and Snowy Egret, and Osprey.

On September 26, 18 participants joined Blair Broughton at the Fire Island Hawk Watch. There were excellent views of Merlin, Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk as well as Osprey, Great Egret, and Double-crested Cormorants. Among the small birds seen were Eastern Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and an estimated 1,000 Tree Swallows.

On October 3, Benjamin Van Doren and Stella Miller led 16 participants to the Hook Mt. Hawk watch. Highlights include magnificent views of Bald Eagles and views of Red-tailed Hawks so close-up that you could look into their piercing eyes. Among the 37 species of birds seen were the following hawks: Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcon. Also seen were Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, and Cedar Waxwing.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HOBAS trips is 171.



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.

November 2010

Saturday, November 27, 9:30 AM – All day trip to Montauk Point for Young Naturalists. Winter waterfowl abound including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks. This trip is for kids and their parents. **Leaders:** Brent Bomkamp and John Turner. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Take the LIE to exit 70, Manorville. Go south on Route 111 to Route 27. Take Route 27 east all the way to Montauk Point Lighthouse. There may be a parking fee. Meet by the restaurant opposite the parking lot.

December 2010

Saturday, December 4, 9:30 AM – Field trip for families to Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge. Morton NWR is famous for its tame Chickadees, who will eat right out of your hand! We will provide birdseed. You are almost guaranteed to have Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches feeding from your hands while we explore the trails of this lovely refuge. Children will love this experience and so will adults. **Leader:** Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register. **Registration is a must so that we know how much seed is needed.**

Directions: Take Sunrise Hwy (27) east past Shinnecock Canal. Look for North Sea and Noyack sign and bear left on CR52. Stay on CR52, then turn left at light onto CR38. After 1.4 miles on CR38, turn right onto Noyack Road. After 5 miles, turn left into refuge. Small parking fee.

Sunday, December 12, 10:00 AM – A Cook's Tour of Our Winter Waterfowl Hotspots. Long Island can be one of the best places in the country to watch winter waterfowl with as many as three dozen species making an appearance during the colder months on the Island's many sheltered ponds, lakes, bays, and harbors as well as the open waters of Long Island Sound. Join us for a fun day to see as many of these species as possible. We will visit Tung Ting

Pond, St. John's Pond, and Sunken Meadow State Park searching for waterfowl. If time allows and the group is game, we will visit other hot spots. **Leaders:** John, Turner, Vinny Pellegrino, and Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Meet at Sunken Meadow Field 3. Take Sunken Meadow Parkway to the park. From there we will travel west.

Saturday, December 18 – Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count. See www.hobaudubon.org for details on how you can participate.

January 2011

Saturday, January 8, 8:00 AM – Owl Prowl at Pelham Bay Park. Pelham Bay Park offers you the best chance to see up to four or more species of owls. Great Horned Owls may be nesting and both Sawwhet and Long-eared Owls may be hiding in the pines. Barn and Barred Owls are occasionally found as well. Views of Long Island Sound should yield a variety of ducks, loons, and grebes. The stadium lights at the southern area of the park host huge Monk Parakeet nests. **Leader:** Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Hutchinson River Parkway to the Pelham Bay Park/City Island/Orchard Beach exit. Continue east farther into the park past the traffic circle then veering left to the parking area on Hunters Island. Meet the group there.

Sunday, January 9, 9:00 AM – North Shore Ponds and Harbors. We will visit several ponds and harbors on the North Shore to see winter ducks as well as permanent resident land birds. Always a fun trip. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: Meet at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary parking lot on Cove Road. Take Route 25A to Cove Road, head north. Parking lot will be on the left.



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Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
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Huntington, NY 11743-0735

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November – December 2010



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Do you want to become more involved? Meet new people? Know that you are making a difference in your local community?



We know you joined Audubon because you are interested in environmental issues. HOBAS has many volunteer opportunities where you can make a difference and have some fun. Our projects include

habitat restoration, beach and highway cleanups, and species monitoring. We also need knowledgeable field trip leaders. These activities are usually half-day events. To find out about these events, check www.hobaudubon.org or our Facebook page. (You do not have to be a registered Facebook user to access our page. You can access it from our website.) Better yet go to our website and sign up for e-mail alerts. Since the *Killdeer* is published only five times a year, many events do not make it into its calendar. E-mail is the best way to keep informed of our latest events and chapter news.

*"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."
- Edmond Burke*

Did You Know?



The Huntington Audubon Society was chartered in March 1961 with temporary officers, then permanent officers were elected in May of that year. The next spring a person who is still active with what is now called Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon joined – Bill Reeves.

In the 1960's Huntington Audubon sponsored public information meetings subsequent to the publication of *Silent Spring* and soon thereafter the Town of Huntington passed the Pesticide Ordinance of Huntington which bans the spraying with DDT, Aldrin, and Dieldrin, in Huntington township, the first such ban in the nation.

The 1960's also focused on nuclear power plants and an awareness of the wildlife in the town of Huntington. The chapter helped produce a complete survey of town wildlife prepared in conjunction with the State Conservation Department. It sponsored field trips for teachers and wildlife film and panel discussions for the public, including a presentation by Dr. Roger Tory Peterson.

Mid-week and weekend field trips were conducted and participation in the Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count began in 1963. Look for more history in the next issue.