Tokens for Bags Program

The Huntington – Oyster Bay Audubon Society is proud to announce that we have been selected to be a recipient of the Buffalo Exchange Tokens for Bags program for July through December 2014. You can now donate to us just by shopping at Buffalo Exchange at 29-16 Ditmars Blvd, Astoria, NY 11105 (718-274-2054). The Tokens for Bags program offers every customer who opts to use a reusable bag (or to not use a bag at all) one “token” valued at $.05 (the cost to produce a bag) to donate to one of several local charities selected by the store employees. The program has generated over $550,000 for hundreds of local nonprofit organizations since 1994 and has saved an estimated 10.6 million bags from the landfill. In November 2012, Buffalo Exchange discontinued the use of all disposable plastic bags, keeping an estimated 350,000 plastic bags out of landfills every year. For more information on Buffalo Exchange please visit www.buffaloexchange.com.

Birdseed Sale 2014

The tentative date for the birdseed sale is Saturday, November 8, 2014 at Huntington High School. We sell high-quality bird seed, some specially blended for the Long Island area. Order forms should arrive in your mailbox in September, since seed must be ordered in advance. If you do not receive your order form by the last week in September, please call Sharon Brody at 516-433-5590 for information and an order form. The order form will also be available at www.hobaudubon.org. You and your feathered friends will love the seed and the profits help to support your local Audubon chapter.

5K Walk/Run for Wildlife & Conservation

Please be advised that we are postponing our third annual walk/run event until the spring. We are doing this in order to secure a location that will allow us to host the event where a 5K course can be supported. While the Planting Fields is a gorgeous location, and we thank the parks department for allowing us to host our event there two years in a row, we feel that we can attract more participants if we can provide a full 5K course rather than the 2-mile course we have been working with. The two locations we are researching for the springtime event are Caumsett State Park and Eisenhower Park, both of which do provide the needed mileage. The date will be in April around Earth Day and our theme will be “Celebrate Earth Day by Running or Walking for Wildlife”. This event will still be a “fun” event, rather than an official race, but we know that some folks like to run 5Ks as a way to compete against themselves and we would like to accommodate them. We will still have incredible prizes for the folks that raise the most money. Last year’s prize baskets were worth over $400 each and we gave away a brand new pair of Pentax binoculars, worth $650! Look for the date in a future issue of the Killdeer.
There were bargains for everyone at the HOBAS Garage Sale, held on June 21st in Cathy Fitts’ backyard. Thank you to all who took the time to donate items and all who stopped by to shop. Your support is greatly appreciated. The sale was a success and raised $638 for the chapter. Special thanks to the following HOBAS members for donating time in collecting and pricing items, setting up, cleaning up, and working the day of the sale: Sharon Brody, Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Cathy Fitts, Ginger and Dan Mahoney, Stella Miller, Charlotte Miska, and Vinnie Schiappa.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon held its annual Birdathon on May 18. Thanks to the generous support of our friends and members we raised over $1,700 which will be used to bring you our great monthly programs. Thank you to the team members who found 113 species: Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Norm Klein, Ginger Mahoney, Bob May, Stella Miller, Charlotte Miska, and Vinnie Schiappa. Special thanks to Ginger Mahoney for coordinating the event and soliciting prizes with the help of Stella Miller. Everyone who supported the team with a financial contribution was entered into a raffle held at the June membership meeting. When you visit our sponsors, please thank them for supporting your Audubon chapter.

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<td>Feather Pot</td>
<td>Sue Adler Pottery, Locust Valley</td>
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<td>Martin Viette, Nurseries, East Norwich</td>
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<td>TR Sanctuary and Audubon Center, Oyster Bay</td>
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<td>Basket of Field Guides</td>
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<td>Dinner for Two</td>
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From the President
Stella Miller

Summer Update and Thank You to Our Volunteers and Supporters

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a fantastic summer! We have been super busy at Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon this spring and fall with an assortment of events and activities:

Our Earth Day beach cleanup in April hosted our largest group ever – 93 volunteers! A good time was had by all and we were blessed with gorgeous weather.

On May 31, we hosted our annual garlic mustard pull at Shu Swamp in Mill Neck with 37 volunteers participating – the largest Shu Crew yet! We are seeing nice progress in the English ivy area, with jack-in-the-pulpit, red trillium, and trout lily repopulating the areas that have been pulled. In addition, after four years of yearly garlic mustard pulls, we have seen a measurable decrease in the amount of mustard in Shu. Garlic mustard takes a few years to fully eradicate and each year we are seeing less of it.

On June 22 and July 5, we hosted Beach Nesting Awareness Days with Audubon NY at Hobart Beach in Northport. The wonderful signs created by kids were on display on the fencing around the nesting areas. Next year we hope to triple the amount of signs posted so be sure to keep an eye out for our workshop, which will be held in late February or early March.

On July 12, we recognized NYS Invasive Species Awareness Week by pulling oriental bittersweet at Stillwell Woods Preserve in Syosset. Our 23 volunteers braved the heat and filled over 20 bags!

On August 9, 30 volunteers participated in a service day at Stillwell – pulling, whacking, digging and cutting nonnative plant species. Twenty-five bags were hauled out. Our neighbors in the field, the Long Island Silent Flyers, invited us over to join in their annual picnic. The volunteers mingled, munched, and some of the kids learned how to fly the model planes. Thank you Flyers!

In addition to these “official” pulls, since May we have been heading into Stillwell Woods on a weekly basis with our volunteer corps, the Habitat Heroes (aka The Invasive Slayers). Being unemployed for the second time in four years, while stressful, has allowed me to dedicate a tremendous amount of time to the work we are doing in the preserve. In May and June we pulled English ivy and garlic mustard. Once it was past mustard pulling time, we focused our efforts on the field. In addition to weekly bittersweet pulls, we have created two pilot restoration areas. These two 10’ x 20’ areas of mugwort have been pulled and covered with black plastic which will remain for 6 weeks. One area will be seeded with milkweed in the spring, while the other area, which is in between two stands of milkweed, will be left alone. Our hope is that the milkweed will recolonize this site on its own. In addition, we hope to work with a consultant to create recommendations for the field, with possible ideas including continued hand pulling, renting goats, a continual mowing for a few years, and full out restoration. We hope to raise some serious funding for this in 2015! Nassau County has been tremendously supportive of our efforts in the preserve, notably Frank Camerlengo, Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Tom Shatel of the Parks Department. By the way, we haven’t forgotten about Underhill Preserve. The consultant we hired to map invaders and make recommendations continues his efforts. This work is taking longer than we anticipated, but once done, the NYSDEC will begin restoration efforts with the grant funding we obtained last year.

Our Volunteers

I would like to take time to give a shout out to all of our volunteers. A huge thank you to the volunteers that have shown up for our highway cleanups and restoration days this past year. In addition to the individual volunteers, two groups deserve special thanks. Members of the Lighthouse Community Church have participated in several of our events. The wonderful members of this church support several nonprofits and we are so proud that we are one of their chosen organizations. In addition, another group has been working with me on a weekly basis since May – the fantastic young people who are serving as missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). These young men and women, ages 18 to 26, are volunteer representatives of the LDS Church and engage in church service, humanitarian aid, and community service.

www.hobaudubon.org

Killdeer
From the President (Continued)
The members of the group I have been working with hail from various places such as Utah, Oregon, Virginia, and even Haiti and are serving in New York for a two-year period. I have been incredibly lucky to work very closely with them for the last few months. These young people are not only hard-working and dedicated to our restoration efforts; they are an absolute joy to be around and have truly made this summer one I will never forget. As volunteer coordinator I have the task of overseeing and participating in all of our restoration efforts. Meeting and getting to know so many of these volunteers has been a true privilege. Our volunteers rock!

Come out and join us. We work hard, but have a great time. (The snacks are darn good too.) To see photos from all of these events, please check out our Facebook page!

Scholarships to Summer Nature Camps
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society once again provided scholarships to summer nature camp programs for children. This year eight scholarships were awarded to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay and four to the Sea Stars Marine Camp in Northport. Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary offers a variety of one-week nature programs for children ages 4-17. Sea Stars Marine Camp, at Fuch’s Preserve in Northport, uses hands-on activities to teach about Long Island’s vital coastal habitats.

Birders’ Box
April 27 – Muttontown Preserve. Coby Klein led his first HOBAS trip with 27 other enthusiasts on a beautiful spring day. Besides the local avian residents other notable sightings included Turkey Vultures, Sharp-shinned Hawk with dinner, Common Yellowthroat, and many Eastern Towhees.

May 3 – Shu Swamp. Tom Hornosky and Stella Miller led 11 participants on a walk looking for flowers and birds. Many spring ephemerals were seen in bloom. Some of the spring avian migrants were Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Black and White, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green Warblers.

May 4 – Central Park. About a dozen keen birders joined Blair Broughton on a productive walk through the Ramble in Central Park. Some of the many species seen were Chimney Swift, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, multiple vireos, Magnolia, Nashville, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Swamp Sparrow.

May 11 – West Hills County Park. A good day for spring migrants was had by about 20 birders who joined Coby Klein on a fine spring outing. Besides the many warblers, including the Blue-winged, other notable species seen were Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole.

May 18 – Annual Birdathon. During this fundraiser, various individuals and groups set out to many locations across Long Island. We saw 113 species including ducks, waders, shorebirds, warblers, and other passerines – many local residents and others migrants.

Species seen on 2014 HOBAS trips: 156
Plight of the Monarchs

Can monarch butterfly migrations be following the path of the passenger pigeon? Each year millions of monarchs have made the journey northward from their wintering ground in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico up through Texas and Oklahoma to the farmlands of the corn belt and east and north to New York, New England, and Canada. Breeding on milkweed along the way through several generations, a final “super” generation makes the return trip to Mexico in one continuous flight, stopping to feed on nectar rich plants along thousands of miles to mountain forests they have never seen.

When the wintering areas were discovered in 1975, an estimated billion monarchs occupied over twenty hectares of the oyamel forests. Wintering populations have been declining steadily with the winter of 2013-2014 having only 0.67 hectares (the lowest recorded to date) occupied by wintering monarchs, down from the previous low in 2012-2013 of 1.19 hectares. This spring only about thirty million monarchs will begin the northward migration. The returning winter population is affected by many factors including favorable weather during migration, availability of habitat and milkweed plants upon which the monarchs depend for laying eggs and pupating young, and nectaring plants for sustenance.

Maintaining habitat for milkweed is essential to monarch survival. Farming with herbicide resistant strains of corn and soybeans for ethanol production has resulted in the loss of over 20 million acres that once provided abundant milkweed for monarch reproduction. Development throughout the breeding range has resulted in the loss of additional millions of acres that once contained milkweed. Roadside mowing programs in many areas destroy more milkweed.

Monarch Watch, under the direction of Dr “Chip” Taylor at the University of Kansas is the clearing house and best source of information about monarch preservation and milkweed planting. Dr. Taylor has promoted the concept of “Waystations,” locally maintained gardens or patches where milkweed and nectar producing plants are established. Thousands of these mini-habitats throughout the migrating corridor and breeding range can contribute to saving the monarch “one butterfly at a time” as Dr. Taylor puts it.

Planting milkweed has been promoted and publicized across the US and Canada. From Maine and Toronto to Oregon, Arizona, Texas, and back north. The city of St. Louis has established waystations in the city’s parks and encouraged homeowners to follow suit. The NRDC has started a petition campaign to stop Monsanto from producing glyphosate or Round-Up, the herbicide that allows farmers to maximize croplands with genetically engineered corn and soy resistant to the herbicides which eliminate milkweed along with other plants frequented by monarchs and other nectar-feeding pollinators.

Will these efforts be successful? Only this year’s fall migration of the monarchs and their wintering population numbers will give us a clue towards their future.
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. The program starts promptly at 7:30. For full program descriptions as well as speaker biography, please go to www.hobaudubon.org.

Wednesday, September 10, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. What a Long Strange Trip It’s Been: Marvelous Avian Migration with Doug Robinson, Ph.D. Bird migration is one of the most incredible phenomena on our planet and one we are still learning about. In the course of a single year, nearly all the Earth’s birds will migrate some distance, some as far as thousands of miles. How do they do it? How does a young bird know where to fly as he prepares to head to his winter home, a place he has never visited before? Professor Doug Robinson is an evolutionary biologist at Marymount College whose teaching and research experiences have focused on organismal biology and behavior. He has taught classes on animal behavior, ecology, ornithology, vertebrate biology, general biology, environmental science, and anatomy and physiology.

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

Monday, October 6 – Deadline for the Nov-Dec Killdeer.

Wednesday, October 8, 7 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Reptiles and Amphibians of Long Island with Russell Burke, Ph.D. This program will be an overview of the reptiles and amphibians of Long Island, and why this is a special place for these species. Long Island is the home of many interesting herps, some that are common elsewhere and others for whom Long Island is a very special place. Tonight’s discussion will emphasize several herp species: diamondback terrapins, Eastern box turtles, hognose snakes, Italian wall lizards, and tiger salamanders. Much of Dr. Burke’s field work takes place in the urban and suburban habitats of New York City and Long Island, so it is Urban Ecology. His major research projects involve diamondback terrapins at Jamaica Bay, wood turtles in northern New Jersey, wall lizards on Long Island, and the inter-play between Lyme disease, ticks, and their hosts.

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

Field Trip Leaders Needed

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge of birds, nature, and birding hotspots with others? HOBAS is looking for new field trip leaders to join our team. You do not have to be an expert to lead a trip and field trips can cover any aspect of the natural world – not just birds.

Volunteer to lead a field trip by sending an e-mail to info@hobaudubon.org.

HOBAS Membership Form

For $20 a year you can be a member of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. Your membership will help support conservation efforts, and educational and youth programs. As a member you will receive our newsletter, an open invitation to our monthly guest lectures, field trips, and events, along with special member’s only discounts and events.

Please fill out this form and mail with your check payable to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-0735

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City ____________________________________________
State Zip ____________________________________________
e-Mail ____________________________________________

HOBAS never sells or shares your personal information.

THANK YOU!
FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Go to hobaudubon.org for detailed trip descriptions.

Field trips are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Newcomers are welcome. Binoculars are advised. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. 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. 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. Call the leader if in doubt about the weather. For the comfort and safety of all participants, there is no smoking on field trips.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, August 31, 9 AM
Bring your muck boots as we will walk around the East Pond looking for shorebirds and other interesting migrants. Jamaica Bay is known for its world-class shorebirding. 
Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.
Directions: Belt Pkwy to exit 17S, Cross Bay Blvd South, and 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 and meet in the parking lot.

Trailview and Bethpage State Parks Ramble
Saturday, September 6, 9 AM
Bethpage and Trailview State Parks offer easy walking and good birding. Orioles, Eastern Wood Pewees, and maybe an Eastern Bluebird or Indigo Bunting are possibilities.
Leader: Sharon Brody. Call 516 433-5590 to register.
Directions: Take the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway South to exit 8, Powell Ave. Make a left turn and go over the LI Expressway. Make the first left into the picnic area and polo grounds. Follow the road to the picnic area.

Jones Beach
Sunday, September 14, 9 AM
We will look for fall migrants that take shelter on the barrier beach before continuing south. These could include many of our rarer shorebirds, neotropical songbirds, and plenty more. You never know when a rarity may pop up! Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.
Directions: Take Wantagh or Meadowbrook Pkwy and follow the signs to Coast Guard Station at the West End. Meet at the Coast Guard parking lot near the restrooms.

Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch, Greenwich Audubon
Sunday, October 5, 9 AM
A great place to catch the fall raptor migration. One of the easiest hawk watches – just roll out of your car and take a seat! The Center is beautiful and has a wonderful gift shop as well as beautiful grounds for further exploration.
Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.
Directions: Hutchinson Parkway North, exit to I-684 North. Take this to exit 3N and head north onto Route 22. At the first light, turn right onto Route 433. Drive 2 miles to the stop sign at the intersection of John Street. The Audubon entrance gate is on your left.

Robert Moses State Park Hawk Watch
Sunday, October 19, 9 AM
The best place to see migrating raptors on Long Island. Great viewing platform, with some of the birds flying by at eye level, always has expert hawk watchers to answer any questions you may have. Exploring the surrounding areas should turn up other migrants as well as possible rarities.
Leader: Blair Broughton. Call 631-885-1881 to register.
Directions: Proceed south on Robert Moses Parkway, over the bridge to Robert Moses State Park. From the water tower circle (check for peregrine falcon), proceed east to parking lot #5. We will meet in the NE corner of the parking lot.

Volunteers Needed

Shu Swamp
Join the Shu Crew to help restore one of the finest preserves on Long Island. Wear clothes and shoes you don’t mind getting muddy. If you have tools and gloves, please bring them. Snacks and water will be provided.

Ivy Pulls
- Saturday, September 20 at 10 AM
  Call 516-695-0763 to register.
- Saturday, October 18 at 10 AM
  Call 631-219-4795 to register.

Directions: From Route 25A in East Norwich, take Route 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left on to Lexington Ave then left on to West Main Street. At the Mill Pond (on the left), bear to the right as if to go to Bayville. At first traffic light (water will be on your right) make a left onto Cleft Road. Take Cleft Road to Frost Mill Road, make a left. (If you wind up on the causeway going over Beaver Dam, you have gone too far.) Shu Swamp will be on your right after you go under the train trestle. Do NOT use your GPS. You will end up in the wrong place.

www.hobaudubon.org
The Fantastic and Fabulous Fox Story Time, Craft, and Outdoor Ramble

When:  Monday, October 13, 2014, 6 PM  
Where:  Bailey Arboretum  
Who:  For ages 3 to 6

Today we will read from the book *FOX* by Kate Banks. Through this book, we will journey deep into the woods and accompany a baby fox who will grow up before our very eyes, and head out into the forest on his own. After the story we will turn crafty, and create paper bag fox puppets. While the glue is drying, we will wander outside (remember to wear clothes that are weather appropriate) to enjoy the crisp fall air and see what we shall see. **To register**, please call 631-903-5556. Group size limited to 20.

Directions to Bailey Arboretum: Long Island Expressway to exit 41 North or Northern State Parkway to exit 35 North. Proceed north on Route 106 towards Oyster Bay. Make left onto Northern Boulevard/Route 25A (west). By the police booth, make a right onto Wolver Hollow Road. Make a right on to Chicken Valley Road. Continue to Oyster Bay Road. At Bayville Road (Barney’s restaurant is on corner), make a right. Continue to Bailey Arboretum.

Winter Offerings for the Birds: Pinecone Bird Feeder Workshop

When:  Monday, December 29, 2014, Noon  
Where:  Bailey Arboretum  
Who:  For kids of all ages

With winter here, our feathered friends are going to be seeking extra food to help them survive the colder weather. We will start by reading, *Animals in Winter*, by Henrietta Bancroft, a story of how our wild neighbors prepare for the winter's cold; then turn crafty and use pine cones, suet, dried fruits, and birdseed to make bird feeders. We’ll hang them on a tree in the Children’s Habitat at Bailey Arboretum, and then take a winter’s ramble in the woods! When we return, we will quietly observe the birds that have arrived to enjoy their treats. Note that most birdseed is processed in plants that also process peanuts if allergies are an issue. **To register**, please call 631-903-5556. Group size limited to 15.