

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Newsletter

Serving from Fort Salonga in Suffolk County to
Oyster Bay and Centre Island in Nassau County

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The Growing Threat of Poorly Sited Wind Turbines To Birds and Bats **Michael Hutchins, Ph.D.**



Photo: Louise Redcorn

The rapidly expanding number of wind turbines and associated infrastructure, notably power lines and towers, is the fastest growing threat to birds and bats in the United States. At the end of 2016, there were 52,000 operational wind turbines and tens of thousands more are currently planned or under construction.

Despite what you hear from the wind industry, the number of birds and bats lost to collisions with wind turbines is far from trivial. One 2012 study estimated those numbers to be around 573,000 birds and 888,000 bats killed annually in the United States. When the losses from collisions and electrocutions from power lines and towers are included, the numbers of birds killed goes into the tens of millions

annually. There are vastly more turbines and power lines now than there were in 2012.

In addition, some birds, such as cryptically colored grassland species and Sage Grouse do not like tall structures, such as power lines and wind turbines, and are stressed by their presence. This can result in reproductive failure and limit movement, thus potentially resulting in genetic isolation—a factor that could reduce long-term survival. Furthermore, some birds and bats appear to be attracted to wind turbines, thus greatly increasing the danger.

As director of the American Bird Conservancy's Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign for the past three years, I have worked with numerous partner organizations, including local Audubon societies, to increase public understanding of this growing threat, to improve state and federal regulations, and to stop the worst-sited projects.

One of ABC's biggest concerns at present are the large number of proposed wind energy projects near or in the Great Lakes—one of the world's largest confluences of migratory birds and bats. Advanced radar studies conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS's) have shown vast numbers of birds and bats flying within the rotor-swept areas of wind turbines during Spring and Fall each year.

Regulations governing wind development are weak at best. The FWS's guidelines are voluntary, not mandatory, and it claims to have no authority to influence siting. State regulations vary, with some being virtually nonexistent (e.g., Oklahoma) and some more stringent (e.g. Hawaii). The wind industry is allowed to conduct their own pre-construction risk assessments by hiring paid consultants, a practice that predetermines the outcome. Virtually all post-construction mortality data are also collected by paid consultants to the wind industry—a direct conflict of interest. The industry has been allowed to self-report violations of the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, even though these violations are punishable by large fines and prosecution. Add to this the fact that the wind industry treats mortality data as trade secrets and even sues to keep them from the public and concerned conservation organizations.

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You Spoke, We Listened

When we announced we were going to produce an electronic only version of our newsletter, thus eliminating the hard copy, a cry and a hue was the result from many of our members. We were surprised and also very heartened by the love shown to our newsletter! As a result we will continue to produce the paper copy while we come up with solutions on how to cut costs. There have been several suggestions, including reducing the production to four times a year instead of five, cutting pages, or offering the hard copy to Chapter Supporting Members only. We will keep the discussions going, and will keep you up to date on our decision.

About our cover bird:

The great horned owl, also known as the "Tiger of The Sky" or "Winged Tiger" is the largest resident owl on Long Island. They are the familiar "hoot" owl that we grew up hearing and are widespread across the entire United State, living in a variety of habitats. This powerful predator can take on prey larger than itself, but also dines on much smaller meals such as mice, frogs and large insects. Like other owl species, great horned owls possess incredible adaptations such as silent flight, excellent light gathering eyesight and phenomenal hearing, all of which make them formidable predators.

**Huntington-Oyster Bay
Audubon Society, Inc.**

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon works to protect wildlife and habitat through conservation action, advocacy, education and impactful partnerships.

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Newsletter

This issue: Stella Miller, Brendan Fogarty

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President's Message



Nature is everywhere. Sure, some places don't look as though they would support wildlife, but really take the time to look around you. That tree growing in uptown New York City, the flowers which will soon be blooming alongside office buildings and most especially, our own backyards - all provide life sustaining resources for wildlife. As I am writing this, I am watching as two ravens gather nesting material in my yard as they prepare to raise young. Ravens! In my yard! I am beyond thrilled since ravens are one of my favorite birds and incredibly cool. I can't wait for the babies to arrive. I have also welcomed flying squirrels, woodchucks, foxes, and enjoyed the incredible array of bird species that abound in my yard. And no, I don't live somewhere in the "country". I live smack dab in the middle of suburbia - Syosset. This demonstrates how our backyards provide critical habitat for wildlife. Please consider adding native plants, trees and shrubs, which provide food and shelter, to your yard. Throw in some water features, leave dead snags and leaf litter and you are well on your way to being a backyard conservationist. Get your neighbors to go native and create a contiguous corridor of habitat for critters. Get your entire neighborhood designated a Bird Friendly Community by HOBAS and continue to spread the word!

Speaking of nature, we are so excited to announce that we have confirmed that the goats are coming back to Underhill Preserve this spring. You have no idea how much I enjoyed playing goat herder last summer and fall and cannot wait to do it again. More about their efforts in our next newsletter.



While I have your attention... we know that the majority of our newsletter recipients are actually National Audubon members, and receive our newsletter as a courtesy. If you are a National member (you are receiving Audubon Magazine), would you consider dual memberships by also becoming a **Chapter Supporting Member**? On average, we receive less than \$5 per National member and that is eliminated by the cost, per member, to produce our newsletter. With a Chapter Supporting Membership (still just \$20!), your dollars go directly to us. The more chapter supporting members we have, the stronger our voice and the more impactful our efforts. Please consider it...and in the meantime, have a wonderful spring!

When you support us through a **Chapter Supporting Membership** (just \$20 per year) you are **directly supporting our conservation, advocacy and educational programs and projects**. In addition, your membership allows us to **count your voice** as we **advocate** for wildlife and habitat, including issues on a local, regional, national and global level. **We truly appreciate it and extend our heartfelt thanks!**

Yes! I want to support Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon directly with a **Chapter Supporting Membership**-\$20 _____
I wish to make an additional donation of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Would you like to receive alerts and notices? email _____

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
PO Box 735
Huntington, New York 11743

A Fond Farewell

Cathy Fitts will be retiring from the Board in June. She has been an important member of the Audubon family since the 1970's and took on the role of Treasurer seven years ago. We wish Cathy all the best in retirement and are grateful for the many years she dedicated to our efforts.

Welcome New Board Members

We are very proud to welcome our newest board members, Andy Burke and Sean Prestia.



Growing up in Sayville, Andy discovered his love for nature by spending summers at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp. It was also at this age when he began to develop his passion for birds. It started with the family's pet parakeet and then grew into the joy of observing wild birds. Andy served in the Coast Guard and followed that with a career with the MTA. Recently, Andy, with his wife Christine, opened a Wild Birds Unlimited store

in Syosset.



Sean grew up in Wantagh NY, just minutes away from beautiful Jones Beach. His love of nature started at an early age when his parents would take him hiking on all of the nature trails Long Island has to offer. This early exposure to nature fostered a passion for wild places which developed into an understanding that these places must be protected through conservation efforts. He is also passionate about sustainability, keeping up to date on the latest

technologies. Sean holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Stony Brook University and an MBA in Finance from Hofstra. He currently works in Mergers and Acquisitions for a large gardening company on Long Island. In his spare time he enjoys building furniture, playing 19th century baseball, and hiking with Waffles, his Pomeranian.

Backyard Conservation

Stella Miller

Up to nine thousand. That is the number of caterpillars needed to feed just one clutch of chickadees during nesting season. Yes, you read that correctly...**nine thousand** and **one clutch**. Imagine several families raising young in your yard, several in the yard over and so on. Now, think about even larger birds and the numbers become staggering.

Backyard Conservation...continued

Speaking of numbers, look at these: 550 versus 4. Native oak trees host over **550** species of caterpillars, while nonnative Callary pears host about four. A native dogwood hosts over 100 species, while the popular Asian ornamental kousa dogwood supports virtually nothing.



Native plants support native insects, most of which are specialists rather than generalists and will not feed on non-natives. **Insects are a critical food source** for a variety of birds and other animals, particularly those raising young. **Baby birds depend on a steady diet of insects for survival.** It doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that the native trees are going to help feed those hungry chickadee nestlings while the nonnatives will do barely anything to assist in their survival. **Less insects mean less birds.** Birds also **depend on berries and seeds** of shrubs, grasses, and flowers in the **fall and winter.**

In addition, butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and moths depend on native plants for their rich nectar and pollen. While going about their daily business, pollinators transfer pollen between flowers of the same species. These pollinated plants will then produce fertile seed. **Pollinators are critical to our food supply** and are responsible for the pollination of the vast majority of all flowering plants. Foods and beverages produced with the help of pollinators include: apples, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, potatoes, pumpkins, vanilla, almonds and tequila. **Over 150 food crops in the US depend on pollinators!**



In addition, native plants require less care. They are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. Native plants work well for landscaping, and once established they rarely need

watering or mowing. **Less time working on the garden means more time relaxing and enjoying it.**

For more information, please visit www.hobaudubon.org and download the "Landscaping for Wildlife" brochure which can be found on the Wildlife Friendly Gardening page.

Don't forget to order your native plants by May 1st!

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Programs and Field Trips-May, June & July 2017

Nature programs, field trips and activities are open to members and nonmembers alike, unless otherwise noted. **Programs**, unless otherwise specified, are held at the Cold Spring Harbor Library—95 Harbor Road (Route 25A). **Refreshments are at 6:45 and program begins at 7:20** (unless otherwise noted). Registration is not required. Please visit our website for more information and speakers' bios.

We invite you to join us on a **field trip!** Newcomers are welcome. **Registration is necessary.** Call the trip leader by 9:00pm Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00pm Friday for a Sunday trip. Call the leader if in doubt about the weather.

Don't forget to bring binoculars and proper clothing and shoes. For the comfort and safety of all participants, please refrain from wearing perfume or smoking on field trips.

APRIL

Sunday, April 30, Field Trip Greenwood Cemetery-9am

Beautiful scenery, famous monuments, and some of the best bird watching in the city. The must-see birds are the Monk Parakeets.

Leader: Blair Broughton **Registration:** 631-885-1881 or aveblue@gmail.com

Directions: LIE westbound to 48th St exit to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway south to the Hamilton Avenue exit. Continue on Hamilton Avenue until it becomes Third Ave. Continue on about 8 blocks to 25th St. Turn left at 25th St. and go two blocks. Cemetery entrance is straight ahead at Fifth Ave and 25th St.

MAY

Sunday, May 7, Field Trip Central Park-8am

One of the finest spots around the metropolitan area for warblers and other spring migrants as well as breeding birds. The array of birds that can be seen is dazzling!

Leader: Blair Broughton **Registration:** 631-885-1881 or aveblue@gmail.com

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

Wednesday, May 10, Nature Program Feathers, Not Just a Downy Covering-7pm

The feathers of birds are one of the many traits that help identify our winged friends. Not only do feathers help birds stay aloft and warm, they also play a role in attracting mates, as well as creating sound. Come learn more about the important functions and uses of these highly modified reptilian scales from one of our favorite speakers, **Doug Robinson, Ph.D.!**



Saturday, May 13, Field Trip

Muttontown Preserve-7:30am (Note: changed from the April 23 date)

Help us celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a morning at Muttontown Preserve. The Preserve includes miles of marked nature trails with local wildflowers, trees, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Today we will be looking for migrants, as well as breeders that have flown north to nest in our area.

Leaders: Stella Miller and Blair Broughton. **Registration:** 516-695-0763 or hobaudubon@gmail.com. After the walk, we'll head over the Wild Birds Unlimited in Syosset for snacks and coffee, which will be followed by a children's craft program at noon.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot off of Muttontown Lane, which is on the south side of Route 25A, just west of Route 106 in East Norwich. Follow Muttontown Lane to the end.

Saturday, May 13, Kids Program Birds for Kids-12pm

Join us today as we learn all about our feathered friends-birds! How are birds different from other animals? How are they the same? Are all birds the same? Why do the males and females sport different coloration from each other? How far can a bird really fly? After a lively lesson on what makes a bird a bird, we will turn crafty and make a springtime bird craft.

Space is limited to 15! Registration a must: 631-903-5556. Ages five and up. **Location:** Wild Birds Unlimited at 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset

Sunday, May 14, Field Trip

West Hills Warbler Watch-7:30am

Before your Mother's Day brunch, enjoy the picturesque, well-groomed nature trails, including the historic Walt Whitman Trail to Jayne's Hill (Long Island's highest peak), winding through this mixed-deciduous forested park. We will investigate this lovely preserve for migrating warblers, as well as other birds.

Leader: Coby Klein. **Registration:** 585-880-0915.

Directions: Take Sweet Hollow Road and turn right into north entrance. Meet at the upper parking area by the Jayne's Hill Picnic Area.

Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21, Field Trip

Weekend with the Warblers: Sterdoodle Trip, Join us one day or both*

Saturday, May 20: Doodletown Ramble-7:30am

Doodletown is a haven for breeding warblers including cerulean and hooded. Kentucky warblers are possible.

Leader: Stella Miller. **Registration:** 516-695-0763 or hobaudubon@gmail.com. **Directions:** Travel west over the Tappan Zee Bridge to exit 13. Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway north. Go north to Route 6 to the Bear Mountain traffic circle. Leave the circle at the first exit, the Bear Mountain State Park exit. At the light, follow the left fork south along 9W. Within less than 1 mile there will be several small parking areas near two, white concrete abutments indicating the bridge over Doodletown Brook. Park along the road.

*Please note that participants are responsible for locating their own overnight accommodations

Programs and Field Trips-May, June & July 2017

Sunday, May 21: Sterling Forest-8am

Golden winged warblers are the attraction here, along with many species of breeding birds.

Leader: Coby Klein. **Registration:** 585-880-0915.

Directions: Take Exit 15 off of NY 87 and head north. Make a left onto 17A. In about 2 miles make a left onto State Route 84 (Long Meadow Road). Follow this about 4 miles to HQ Building/Visitor Center where we will meet.

JUNE

Sunday, June 4, Field Trip

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, 8am

We should see plenty of resident birds and late migrants while walking along the numerous hiking trails. Ward Pound Ridge is also known for its abundance of butterflies.

Leader: Blair Broughton.

Registration: 631-885-1881 or aveblue@gmail.com.

Directions: Whitestone Bridge to the Hutchison River Parkway, then get on I-684 around exit 26. Exit I-684 at exit 6 onto NY-35 heading east. Entrance to park is near junction of NY-35 and 121 South, Cross River.

Sunday, June 11, Field Trip

Nickerson Beach, 7:30am

Songbirds have settled into their territories for the summer, but shorebirds are still migrating. We will start the day on the beach, looking for migrant Roseate, Royal, and Black Terns, and enjoying the local Black Skimmer colony. We will spend some time on the marsh side, enjoying the nesting Willets, Oystercatchers, Willow Flycatchers, Boat-tailed Grackles, and maybe Gull-billed Terns.

Leader: Brendan Fogarty. **Registration:** 516-782-0293.

Directions: take the Meadowbrook Parkway south to the Loop Parkway toward Point Lookout. At the end of the parkway, merge onto Lido Blvd west. Turn left into Nickerson Beach park at the second light. There is no charge at this hour. Continue west past the tollbooths and turn into the large lot on the left after the skatepark. Meet in the southeast corner by the playground.

Wednesday, June 14, Nature Program

Wild Utah: America's Red Rock Wilderness-7pm

Tonight we will host a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. First, we will take a 20-minute journey, narrated by Robert Redford, through redrock splendor, discussing how the designation of Wilderness is the best way to protect land, water, and the ecosystem, as well as learn about the flora and fauna (especially endangered species) of the canyons of Southern Utah. The multimedia slideshow will be shown in conjunction with a presentation on the status of the Utah wilderness movement, given by **Travis Hammill** of the **Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance**.

JULY

Tuesday July 4, Field Trip

Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, 9am

MNSA is a 52-acre preserve devoted to environmental education and natural history. The Marine Nature Study Area is divided into eight instruction sites, each of which deals with a different aspect of the marine or estuarine environment. Come celebrate Independence Day with HOBAS as we search for terns, shorebirds, and other saltmarsh denizens.

Leader: Coby Klein. **Registration:** 585-880-0915.

Directions: The Marine Nature Study Area is located at 500 Slice Dr. in Oceanside.

Sunday, July 23, Field Trip

Cow Meadow Park, 8am

Parakeets and herons are finishing their last broods of the summer, and shorebirds are already migrating in numbers. We might get close looks at all of these, before exploring the nearby marsh.

Leader: Brendan Fogarty **Registration:** 516-782-0293

Directions: take the Meadowbrook south to Merrick Rd west, and immediately take the left fork for Mill Rd. At the end, merge left onto Main Street and head south. Meet at Cow Meadow Park, at the very southernmost end of Main Street.

Volunteer With Us



Earth Day Volunteer Event

Saturday, April 22, 8am

Hack, Chop and Saw Day at Underhill Preserve

Like using loppers and saws and machetes? Are you rugged and willing to work hard but have some fun? Are you a Habitat Hero and a Wildlife Warrior? Then this opportunity is for you. Underhill Preserve in Jericho is closed to the public, but gearing up for the return of our invasive-slayer goats and we need to start prepping for it! We will be hacking down multiflora rose and autumn olive. Please wear a cap if you have one, be sure to wear sunscreen (we'll be out in the sun) and bring insect repellent if you have it (if not, we will have some to share). If you have your own loppers, machete or saws please bring them, otherwise we have some to share.

We will also be installing wood duck, bluebird and kestrel nest boxes as well as bat houses. **Directions:** We will meet in front of the Starbucks in the Whole Foods shopping center in Jericho on Route 107 and carpool. **Registration is an absolute must:** 516-695-0763 or hobaudubon@gmail.com

Check out our website and join our email list for details on our annual Invasive Species Awareness Week Volunteer Event in July-details TBD!

Out On a Limb: Boreas Pond Wilderness

Alex McKay



In 2007, the Nature Conservancy purchased 161,000 acres of forest land in the Adirondacks from the Finch Pruyn timber company and entered into an agreement in 2012 to sell 69,000 acres of that property to New York State over a five-year period, promising the largest single addition to the Adirondack Forest Preserve in over a hundred years. By 2013 the state had acquired almost 28,000 acres including the Essex Chain of Lakes tracts, OK Slip Falls, and parts of the wild Upper Hudson River.

Once land is acquired in the Forest Preserve, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) created in 1973 is required to classify the lands in various categories ranging from wilderness to intensive use according to the State Land Master Plan. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) then develops Unit Management Plans (UMP's) for specific activities allowed within the designated categories for each acquisition.

The Essex Chain classification process was somewhat contentious as environmental groups complained that it was gerrymandered between wilderness, primitive, and a wild forest corridor to permit motorized access including snowmobiling. The retention of a logging bridge over the Hudson to permit future development of a snowmobile trail between Indian Lake and Minerva to the east was also an issue.

In May of last year, the purchase of the 20,758 acre Boreas Ponds tract culminated the acquisition of the 69,000 acres of former Finch Pruyn lands from the Nature Conservancy at a total cost of almost \$50 million, using funds dedicated for these purposes in the Environmental Protection Fund. An interim plan was developed by the DEC to permit public access to the ponds prior to final classification and the issuance of a UMP.

The interim plan allows vehicle access over Gulf Brook Road which connects the ponds to the Blue Ridge Highway leading from North Hudson to Newcomb.

Only 3.2 miles of the 6.8 mile road are opened to a parking area that leaves another 3.5 miles to LaBrier Flow, the outlet of the ponds, and another mile to the ponds themselves and the spectacular views of the High Peaks now available to the public for the first time in a century.

...continued next column

Horse and wagon and horseback riding and bicycling are permitted to the dam at the pond. Canoeists and kayakers need to portage or wheel their craft the full distance from the parking area.

Beginning in November of last year, APA staff conducted a series of eight public hearings (none on Long Island or in New York City) regarding four final classification proposals which would allow various scenarios for access to the ponds. None of the proposals included a wilderness designation that would include Gulf Brook Road and exclude motorized access to the tract. The majority of the speakers at the hearings advocated wilderness classification. Many wore green T-shirts proclaiming "I want wilderness."

Among the groups testifying were Adirondack Wilderness Advocates, who favor full wilderness protection for the entire tract, Protect the Adirondacks who favor Gulf Brook Road as a boundary between wilderness and wild forest, leaving access as far as LaBrier Flow, and Access the Adirondacks, made up of local governments, who want wild forest and motorized access for the entire holding, including the logging roads.

Following the December 7 hearing, the public comment period on the agency staff proposals was held open until December 30. The APA Board will receive the staff recommendations this spring with a final decision expected later this year.

In the meantime, Governor Cuomo's proposed budget includes a plan for a \$32 million investment in a "Gateway to the Adirondacks" at the site of the former 85 acre Frontier Town theme park at Exit 29 of the Adirondack Northway. The new hub would include a visitor information center, a state DEC campground, an event center with tourist accommodations and facilities for housing shows and festivals, area for commercial business development, and historic interactive exhibits about the Adirondack Park.

The project is expected to bring an economic boom to the North Hudson area and encourage tourism throughout the Adirondacks. Only a few miles from the Boreas Ponds tract, the new gateway could complicate decision making regarding the classification of the ponds. The APA Board decision is a critical one as it will test the pull between environmental protection and economic and recreational demands for our public lands. Whatever the outcome, I have the Boreas Ponds on my bucket list for a visit next summer...Stay tuned.



Conservation Through Art Workshop: Sharing Our Beaches With Birds

On Friday, March 10th, HOBAS held its fourth annual "Conservation Through Art: Sharing Our Beaches With Birds" workshop as part of Audubon New York's "Be a Good Egg" campaign. Hosted by Andy and Christine Burke at Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset, Girl Scout Troop 3570 of Syosset learned about beach nesting birds with an interactive program, presented by Brendan Fogarty and Stella Miller, where they tested their knowledge and learned just how interesting, important and imperiled these birds are. After the program, the girls turned artsy and created wonderful posters. This is the second year in a row we have partnered with the Girl Scouts and we were once again incredibly impressed with the talent that was on display before our eyes. These posters will be made into signs for the nesting area of Northport's Hobart Beach.

Educating young people about birds is a great start. Allowing them to help protect birds by giving them an opportunity to make a real difference offers them ownership of conservation efforts and a sense of accomplishment. These girls were not just making a craft to be taken home and eventually discarded; they were making a difference in the lives of birds. Thanks to Simone DaRos for her assistance during this fun-filled evening. An especially enthusiastic thank you goes to Andy and Christine, for graciously staying after hours in order to host this program.



Underhill Preserve...Thank You!

Thank you to Marty Wenz of the Krusos Foundation, for generously donating and installing bluebird, kestrel and wood duck nest boxes at our Underhill Preserve grass-land restoration project. In addition, another thank you goes to Andy Burke, of Wild Birds Unlimited, for the donation of nine bat houses which will also be installed in the preserve. Up until a few years ago, the preserve hosted bluebirds, which have disappeared as the open areas were invaded by multiflora rose and autumn olive. We are hoping they will be lured back by the clearing of the grassland and our hospitality.



Northport Historical Society Bird Camp

On a warm President's day, Stella Miller and Brendan Fogarty gave a presentation for Day 1 of the Northport Historical Society's Winter Day Camp for kids. The theme of the camp? Birds! The presentation was an interactive introduction to backyards birds, specially designed for kids. The campers were quick to identify the key features that make birds unique and learned about the diversity of birds and their behavior, including some pretty amazing feats. After a quick snack break the kids constructed pinecone birdfeeders with melted suet and birdseed. The feeders were messy but fun to make, and the kids brought their creations home to see some of the birds illustrated during the presentation up close. The morning finished up with a quick activity to test their newly learned knowledge of birds. We are pleased to report that the kids passed with flying (no pun intended) colors! Thank you so much to Kathy Fitzpatrick, Assistant Director and Museum Educator, for inviting us. We look forward to partnering with the Society in the near future!



A Bird Friendly Community in Oyster Bay

In November of 2016, Stella Miller and Brendan Fogarty presented a program on wildlife friendly communities for the Oyster Bay Civic Association, encouraging the hamlet to join the movement to bring nature "home". We were thrilled when Alex Gallego, of the Gallego Financial Group of Raymond James, immediately approached us, asking how he could make his business welcoming to birds and pollinators. We surveyed his site, and determined that a pollinator garden and border will be a perfect way to do so. In addition to designing the garden for Raymond James, our other efforts in Oyster Bay include sponsoring a native demonstration garden at Sagamore Hill in 2016, and partnering with the Oyster Bay Historical Society to landscape the entire property with native plants. Look for HOBAS to expand messaging and initiatives in the village in the near future.

If you are a business or homeowner in the village of Oyster Bay and are interested in how you can become "wildlife friendly", please contact us at hobaudubon@gmail.com or 516-695-0763. We would love to talk to you about how you can contribute to the Oyster Bay Bird Friendly Community Initiative!

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
PO Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743

Native Plant Sale Fundraiser

June 3, 2017

Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset.

Be sure to get your order form in by May 1!!!

All proceeds to benefit HOBAS



See inside for changes to the
April field trip schedule



SOUND-Off! Event
Sunday, April 23, 12-4
Whaling Museum and Education Center at Cold Spring Harbor



Join us for a hands-on afternoon for the whole family to learn the importance of Long Island Sound! Visit LI Sound “rescue stations” and try to clean up a mock oil spill or filter impurities out of water. Please be sure to stop by the HOBAS table and sign the pledge to be a “Good Egg” and protect beach nesting birds!

(Wind Turbines...continued from page 1)



Climate change is real and must be addressed. However, we should not be rushing to solutions that are also damaging to our nation’s birds and bats and their critical habitats. Birds and bats perform essential ecological services—such as pest control, pollination and seed dispersal—that are worth billions of dollars to U.S. economy and enhance the quality of all our lives. Our irreplaceable native birds and bats should not be “collateral damage” in our fight against climate change. Our birds are already in serious trouble, with fully one-third of our native species currently in need of concerted conservation action in order to ensure their future. Similarly, bats are already threatened by the rapid spread of White-nose disease. We could be doing so much better. See more at: <https://abcbirds.org/program/wind-energy/>

Editor’s Note: Michael Hutchins is Director, Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign for the American Bird Conservancy