

**The Huntington Audubon Society**  
*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

**August - September - October 2009**

**Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas**

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**Birdathon 2009  
Thank You To Our Donors!  
Congratulations To All Our Winners!**

Thanks to the generous support of our friends and members, we were able to raise \$4,500 this year.

As always, Birdathon was a fun (and long) day. On May 17<sup>th</sup> we started out at 6:45 AM at Alley Pond Park and finished the day up at 8:15 PM at Shu Swamp. A portion of the day was rather cold, rainy, and windy but despite this, our grand total for the day was 113 species. The eight locations covered were Alley Pond Park, Forest Park, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Oceanside Marine Center, Jones Beach, Stillwell Woods, Upper Francis Pond Preserve, and Shu Swamp. The highlights of the day were the Black-necked Stilt at Oceanside, a beautiful perched Peregrine Falcon at Jones Beach, and 19 Wood Ducks flying in for the evening at Shu Swamp!

Many thanks to the team members and sponsors of Birdathon 2009. We would like to thank our generous donors for the sponsorship and team prizes: Fiddleheads Restaurant, The Mill River Inn Restaurant (each donated a \$150 gift certificate), Wild Honey Restaurant (dinner-for-two gift certificate), the Grand Wine Cellar in Syosset (a gift basket worth \$50), Stella Miller (who added more wine to the basket, bringing its value up to \$75), David Bathie (who carved a gorgeous wooden shorebird), and Ginger Mahoney (beautiful handcrafted pottery, created in her own studio, along with coffee and scones). Thanks also go to Stella, who obtained the restaurant and wine prizes for our event.

The lucky winners of the raffle were: Debbie Martin (\$500 cash), Marie Treubert (the gift card to Fiddleheads Restaurant), Laura Eaton (the gift card to Mill River Inn) and Lucille Mayer (wine gift basket).

The folks sponsoring the team members were not the only ones who had a chance to win prizes. Team members competed to see who could bring in the most

donations. Ginger Mahoney came in third, but very generously withdrew from winning her own pottery, so the prize went to Douglas Caracappa. Second prize was the carving and Bill Reeves was the winner in that category. He was knocked out of last year's first place standing by Stella Miller, who won dinner for two at Wild Honey Restaurant

A very special thanks go to Ms. Martin who is donating the \$500 back to HAS' Youth Outreach Committee to assist in our youth outreach program. Thank you Debbie!

Everyone's efforts were much appreciated and we look forward to Birdathon 2010.

**Complimentary HAS Membership to  
Youths Between the ages of 11 and 18!**

If you are between the ages of 11 and 18 and join between September 1 and December 31 you will receive a complimentary membership to Huntington Audubon! Membership includes open invitations to our monthly and special programs, field trips (including our all new youth only field trips), special discounts on some events, and our newsletter, the *Killdeer*.

Starting in September, Huntington Audubon will be featuring special youth only field trips, led by members of our Youth Outreach Committee. Our upcoming trips this fall will be to Jones Beach on September 13 and Montauk Point on November 21. Parents are of course welcome and we do ask that you fill out a permission slip prior to the trip and e-mail it to us. Loaner binoculars are available to those without their own. See field trip page, HAS website, or HAS Facebook page for details. For more information, e-mail Stella Miller at [trickiwoo63@yahoo.com](mailto:trickiwoo63@yahoo.com).



**Visit us on the web**  
**[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)**

**September Program**  
**Wednesday, September 9**  
**Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments  
 7:30 PM Speaker

***Eastern Cougars with Christopher Spatz***

The search for the eastern cougar is fraught with controversy. Thousands of sightings from Maine to Georgia and west to the Mississippi River have produced only a dozen confirmations in the past generation. The Eastern Cougar Foundation (ECF) has conducted sanctioned remote camera surveys while soliciting reports for 10 years without producing a single piece of confirmed evidence. Including a discussion of cougar biology and behavior, Chris will explain why sightings don't produce evidence, and why the ECF is now advocating for reintroductions of this magnificent predator to its former eastern range.



**from Hospitality**

**by Simone DaRos, Hospitality Chairperson**

Each one of Huntington Audubon's outstanding monthly membership meetings begins with the sampling of tasty goodies ranging from fresh fruit to homemade apricot bars and everything in between. We serve shade grown organic coffee, use biodegradable cups, plates, and napkins, and recycle used plastic containers whenever possible. HAS hospitality offers free raffle tickets to those who bring their own cups from home. Our hospitality committee has been very fortunate to consist of many caring and generous individuals.

The hospitality committee would like to thank all those who have made various contributions during our membership meetings. Our members look forward to the delicious snacks that we serve and we could not do it without your help. A special thank you goes to Charles and Bev Reina for our new coffee maker which works like a charm. Thank you to Stella Miller for the home-made chocolate lollipops which were a big hit. And a BIG thank you to Petie Szabo, Cathy Fitts, Blair Broughton, Sherry Kumm, Ginger Mahoney, Charlotte Miska, Pat Reeves, Maria Kelly, Denise Graham, Chrissy Albanese, Tesi Copa, Ruthe Corwin, Lindy Nielsen, and Maureen Stammers-Jansen for your ongoing support of the HAS' hospitality committee. Our meetings just wouldn't be the same without you.

*The mission of the Huntington Audubon Society is to increase community awareness about the environment and to encourage others to enjoy and protect birds and other wildlife in their natural habitats.*



**killdeer**

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Huntington 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**

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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.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org).

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



**Audubon Adventures**

HAS is enrolling classrooms in the 2009-2010 Audubon Adventures program, entitled "Action for Planet Earth". Audubon Adventures is geared towards grades 3-6, meets NYS science and language arts standards, and encourages natural curiosity about the world with hands-on learning and critical thinking challenges.

If you are an educator and wish to participate - free of charge - or would like additional information, please contact Ginger Mahoney at 516 922-4599.

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



## A Bird's Eye View with Stella

by Stella Miller



Welcome to our new environmental entertainment column, *A Bird's Eye View*, where I will review some of my favorite books, movies, and videos.

As someone who obtained her wildlife rehabilitation license just last year, I was eager to read Suzie Gilbert's book, *Flyaway: How a Wildlife Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings*. Of course, I assumed it would be interesting and a good read. What I was not prepared for was the range of emotions, from heartbreak to hilarity that I experienced while reading it. *Flyaway* is thoroughly entertaining and engrossing and I could not put it down. Suzie speaks with the voice of countless wildlife rehabilitators and does it eloquently, articulately, and with a razor sharp sense of humor.

Her story is a fascinating account of living with wildlife as well as a lesson on how to balance life and work to the extreme! Suzie is a gifted writer, who takes a situation and teases it apart into many layers. *Flyaway* will make you laugh and then in a lickety split, it will make you cry.

Suzie began her career at an animal hospital and from there took a straight path to opening a rehabilitation center, called Flyaway, Inc, out of her home. Her husband John and children Mac and Skye show infinite patience and good humor in sharing their home with the wildlife she brings in. As patients come and go, a sense of awe fills the reader as they experience the heart wrenching struggles, comedic incidents, and tender moments a rehabber lives through on a daily basis. It is not just a bird here and there, miraculously brought back to life and then set free as the song, "Born Free" echoes magically from the woods. Rehabbing is physically difficult and heartbreaking work.

It is also not a very well known career choice. The general public does not understand the extent to which many rehabbers forfeit their personal lives in order to dedicate themselves to saving wildlife. Suzie opens herself up here to the conflicted emotions that come with this career choice; is she neglecting her family for the sake of these animals? Or, is she enriching her children's lives in an immeasurable way? Ultimately she has no choice but to continue. To stop would be to toss away the very essence of her heart and soul, that which makes her the person that she is. It is not an easy task. Suzie must learn when to hang on and when to let go. Not every animal makes it. In fact, many of them do not. On the occasion when an animal can be saved and set free, it can make up for every heartbreak that has come before it.

As owls, ducks, red-tailed hawks and a various assortment of songbirds stream into her home, a profound lesson in

the value of each individual life is learned. As I read this book, I remembered an old story about a man who met another man throwing starfish into the water on a beach. The first man asked why he was doing it, when there were thousands of starfish on the beach. He wanted to know, "What difference could he possibly make?" As the second man threw another starfish back into the water, he replied, "It makes a difference to that starfish". That is why rehabilitators do what they do. They know that each individual life is precious and has value. Each life they save does make a difference. To that animal, to themselves, and to anyone who cares about the wildlife we share our world with. Entertaining, while teaching us a vital lesson about the value of life, this book is a wonderfully good read. I highly recommend it!

*Suzie Gilbert will be our special guest on Saturday, September 26 at 12 noon. Please see the program section of this newsletter for details.*

## Garage Sale Success!

There were bargains for everyone at the 4th annual HAS garage sale, held on June 6th in Cathy Fitts' flowering backyard. We thank all who took the time to gather items to donate and all who stopped by to "shop". Your support was greatly appreciated. The sale was another success and raised \$766.46 for the chapter. The following HAS members donated time in collecting and pricing items, setting up, cleaning up, and working the day of the sale: Susan Aidala, Ann Brosnan, Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Alice DelBosco, Cathy Fitts, Maria Kelly, Ginger and Dan Mahoney, Charlotte Miska, Rosemarie Papayanopoulos, Vinnie Schiappa, and Petie Szabo.

### October Program

Wednesday, October 14  
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

### *Tracking a Hidden Spectacle: Using Radar and Acoustic Monitoring to Study Nocturnal Bird Migration*

Andrew Farnsworth, PhD will be speaking about two exciting ways to study migration and to experience migration from a broad and new perspective: listening to flight-calls of passing migrants and interpreting radar imagery of bird migration. We will hear a variety of pre-recorded flight-calls and see many radar images from across the United States. If we are lucky, and conditions are favorable, we will try to look at live radar images and possibly even listen live to passing migrants.

**Methane Flare/Raptor Conflict Update**  
by Stella Miller

We have very good news regarding the Methane Flare/Raptor Conflict that we have previously reported on. Since bringing this issue to your attention, we have been hard at work on this issue and we are pleased to report the following developments:

- A board member of the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management, Eric Swenson, read the article on this issue in a recent issue of the *Killdeer*. He quickly brought it to the Association’s attention. Almost as quickly, the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations became involved and both groups formed a coalition with Huntington Audubon and NYS Audubon to shine the light on this problem.
- A press release was issued in April and soon after, I was interviewed by an Associated Press reporter. After a month of research on the part of the reporter, the article was released and over 110 news outlets picked up the story. I was interviewed by *Audubon* magazine and a story about this issue will run in one of their fall issues.
- The NYS solid waste people presented this issue at their annual conference in May where a Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) representative heard about the issue. I had already sent a letter and photos to the CEO of the organization and was shortly thereafter contacted by SWANA. They also brought this topic up at their annual conference in June. Since that time I have exchanged several e-mails with a representative of SWANA and have had a conference call with him. We are currently brainstorming with SWANA to come up with solutions. Some of their ideas have been quite innovative and creative and they currently have engineers researching various ways to combat this problem.
- An e-mail went out to over 1,300 SWANA members and as a result, they have received calls from several landfill operators with the same message, “I have been dealing with this problem for years and never knew what to do about it. Thank you for bringing attention to it.” This indicates a willingness on the part of some landfill operators to engage in this issue.
- In the meantime, our Facebook cause, Save Our Raptors, has over 600 members. The Save Our Raptors Campaign website is up and running ([www.huntingtonaudubon.org/saveourraptors](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org/saveourraptors)) and the HAS Facebook page contains the latest information.
- We are gathering data from raptor centers around the country and have encouraged SWANA to promote the idea of reaching out to not only landfill’s local Audubon chapter, but their local wildlife rehabilitators. No one knows more about this issue than they do!

Landfills vary widely in how they are set up and there is no cookie cutter remedy. There is no guarantee that this is

going to be a “miracle cure”. There is no guarantee landfills will take the steps needed in order to bring about an end to this problem. However, this is a fine first step.

Yes, the law is being broken each time a bird dies. Trying to enforce those laws has not been successful. To have SWANA on our side is vital. SWANA cannot enforce the law. Their job is to educate and to offer resources for landfill operators. They have the ability to be a powerful voice for raptors and this is what we have needed.

I see a three pronged strategy here. There are three factors to consider and I hope that at least one of them hits home with operators. One: birds are dying, being burned to death with unimaginable suffering (believe me, I have seen the photos, these are not quick deaths). Two: this is against the law. Birds are protected under the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act and as such, the fines are stiff. Three: this is the chance for the industry to garner some terrific PR; to be the industry that is actually fighting to PROTECT wildlife, instead of destroying and displacing it. Even if a landfill operator doesn’t care about birds dying, they will care about one of the other two factors.

This will not happen overnight. There is a long, difficult journey ahead of us, but now there is hope. Hope that landfills will end being death traps for raptors. Hope that people actually care about this issue and something will finally be done. Hope that we can save our raptors from dying painful and senseless deaths.



**Membership Application**

Chapter No. RO2

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Out on a Limb

by Alex Mckay

I had an opportunity recently to meet Lee McAllister, author of *Hiking the Catskills* and *Hiking Long Island, A Comprehensive Guide to Parks and Trails*, when he spoke at the Northport Library. Lee is an inveterate hiker and nature enthusiast whose photos and narrative make you want to get out on some of the old familiar trails and to experience some new ones.

The guide is an invaluable companion to planning outdoor adventures. Containing descriptions of fifty-eight sites and side hikes from many, there are over four score possibilities to explore throughout the seasons. Lee recommends hikes in winter as well as the friendlier times of year. He takes us from the twenty-mile long Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt Trail that begins in Massapequa and ends in Cold Spring Harbor to the trails of Orient and Montauk State Parks at the east end on the north and south forks. In between are short walks at such locations as Gardiner County Park in Bayshore to the Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve in Riverhead.

Each of the site descriptions contains detailed information from the length of the hike to topographic map quadrants to almost step-by-step descriptions of trail markers, points of interest, historic background, and a useful "Access" conclusion that provides directions to parking areas and in many cases public transportation. The text is accompanied by a variety of photographs and maps that give an overview of the prospects. A central chapter deals with the Paumanok Path - Pine Barrens Section, at almost forty-seven miles, the great path of Long Island. Included also is the thirty-two mile Long Island Greenbelt Trail from Heckscher State Park to Sunken Meadow on the north shore.

Lee reminded me of some memorable moments on the paths of Paumanok: from a number of Audubon outings to Noyak and the Morton Wildlife Refuge, hand-feeding chickadees and titmice, to a solo hike when I managed to lose myself in the maze around the Cranberry Bogs, to the awesome view from the ridges of the Sarnoff Pine Barrens Preserve, overlooking miles of wilderness to the Atlantic Ocean. The text includes introductory material covering advice and safety tips to hikers, geology, flora, and fauna, local history, climate, history, and a trip through the seasons, which also concluded Lee's excellent slide program.

*Hiking Long Island*, published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, has recently been released in a revised third edition. Lee kindly inscribed my older 2001 edition by writing, "Alex - Try and get out and find something new each hike. - Lee". Great advice for all of us. *Hiking Long Island* can lead anyone to find and explore what Walt Whitman called "pastures new."

## Birders' Box

On a cloudy, cool May 9 trip to Jamaica Bay we saw Great and Snowy Egrets, Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron, Northern Harrier, a Ring-necked Pheasant (reported to be a first for Jamaica Bay in many years), Semi-palmated Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Common Tern, Great Crested Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, several Scarlet Tanagers, many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-starts and a Northern Water Thrush.

The Central Park walk, May 10, was enjoyable as always but strong winds inhibited the birds, yielding only 35 species for the day. Notable among those seen were Eastern Phoebe, both Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireo, House Wren, and Scarlet Tanager. The warblers included: Black and White, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Wilson's and beautiful views of both Canada Warbler and Blackburnian. At that point our total species seen for the year was 142.

Saturday, May 16 the group started at Fuch's Pond then traveled to Jones Beach, Valley Stream, and Oceanside. Added to species seen that day were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Clapper Rail, Piping Plover, Least Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt (at Oceanside), and Orchard Oriole.

Sunday, May 17 on the Birdathon we saw a total of 113 species. We saw all the birds mentioned above as well as Wood Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Red Knots, Short-billed Dowitchers, Gull-billed Tern, Forster's Tern, Least Tern, Chimney Swifts, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfishers, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebirds, and 14 species of warblers. Other notable birds seen that day were Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue Grosbeak, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Our total rose to 175 species after the Birdathon.

On Sunday, May 24 at Bashakill many of the already mentioned birds were seen again and 3 new ones were added, Pileated Woodpecker, Golden-winged Warbler, and Alder Flycatcher. Also seen were Bald Eagle, two adults and 3 chicks on the nest, Blue-winged Warblers, Eastern Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, Blackpoll Warbler, and Ovenbird.

No new species were added on the last weekend in May.

**Number of species as of the end of May seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 178.**





## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and activities of the Huntington Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, meeting Board members, and perusing the printed materials available. We're doing this to be sure the program can start promptly at 7:30 and end early enough for us all to exit the building by its 9:00 PM closing hour. Our cooperation and compliance will allow the library staff to close the gate on schedule.

### August 2009

**Wednesday, August 19, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

### September 2009

**Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 PM** – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Eastern Cougars* with Christopher Spatz. The search for the eastern cougar is fraught with controversy. Thousands of sightings from Maine to Georgia and west to the Mississippi River have produced only a dozen confirmations in the past generation. The Eastern Cougar Foundation (ECF) has conducted sanctioned remote camera surveys while soliciting reports for 10 years without producing a single piece of confirmed evidence. Including a discussion of cougar biology and behavior, Chris will explain why sightings don't produce evidence, and why the ECF is now advocating for reintroductions of this magnificent predator to its former eastern range. Christopher Spatz is a rock climber, fly fisherman, and conservationist based in New York's Shawangunks. He has been honored nationally for his advocacy work as a director of the Gunks climbers' Coalition.

**Wednesday, September 16, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

**Saturday, September 26, 12:00 noon** – **Meet the Author at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** Join us today as we welcome author Suzie Gilbert as our special guest speaker. Suzie is the author of *Flyaway: How a Wildlife Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings*. (See review in this issue.) Suzie will present a slide show on some of the feathered creatures that have passed through her rehabilitation center's doors, and will also be selling and signing copies of her book. Refreshments will be served.

**Wednesday, September 30** – Deadline for the November - December *Killdeer*.

### October 2009

**Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 PM** – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Tracking a Hidden Spectacle: Using Radar and Acoustic Monitoring to Study Nocturnal Bird Migration* with Andrew Farnsworth, PhD. Dr. Farnsworth, will be speaking about

two exciting ways to study migration and to experience migration from a broad and new perspective: listening to flight-calls of passing migrants and interpreting radar imagery of bird migration. We will hear a variety of pre-recorded flight-calls and see many radar images from across the United States. If we are lucky, and conditions are favorable, we will try to look at live radar images and possibly even listen live to passing migrants.

**Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

**Saturday, October 24, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at **Huntington High School – Birdseed Sale.** Order forms should arrive in your mailbox by September 10 since seed must be ordered in advance. If you don't get a form by then, contact Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

### November 2009

**Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 PM** – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Conserving Wildlife Against the Odds: A New "Just-so" Tale from Post-Kipling's India* with Graham Cox, PhD. In this program Dr. Cox will talk about national park management in southwest India, a UN biosphere reserve and a region at the top of the global list of endangered habitats. Using photos taken on a trip in January 2008, and a short DVD produced by the staff of the Nagarahole Park, you will get to see the challenges of conserving nature while providing for the needs of a diverse and growing native population. Graham Cox is Open Space and Sustainable Forest Program Coordinator for Audubon New York.

**Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

### Hold these dates! Details in next *Killdeer*.

**Saturday November 21:** Montauk Point for Young Birders

**Tuesday, December 5:** Waterfowl walk with John Turner and Stella Miller

**Sunday, December 12:** Chickadee walk with Brent Bomkamp and Stella Miller

**Saturday, January 30:** Pelham Bay, joint trip with Hudson River Audubon.



## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Outdoor activities, such as birding and hiking with a group, are a wonderful way to share your interests with like-minded people to learn more about birds and nature, and to enjoy many preserves and natural areas. Newcomers are most welcome. Binoculars and field guides are strongly advised, but leaders usually have some field guides to share. Field trips begin between 8:00 and 9:00 AM at the site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. During spring migration, some field trips may begin earlier. That will be clear in the trip announcement. Directions to the site are published below and on our website. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. Contact the trip leader for details. The trip leader is not responsible for arranging carpools, but will provide names of others who are interested in carpooling. Registration is necessary. Call the trip leader by 9:00 PM Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00 PM Friday for a Sunday trip. Be sure to leave your phone number. You may participate if you didn't register, but we will not be able to notify you of any changes or cancellations without your phone number. Dress for the weather realizing you'll be outdoors for long periods of time. Bring water and if the trip is for a full day, bring a bag lunch. Rain or temperature below 20° F cancels. For the comfort and safety of all participants there is no smoking on field trips.

### September 2009

**Sunday, September 13, 8:00 AM – Jones Beach for Young Birders.** This trip is for birders between the ages of 11 and 18, and their parents or guardians must register them for this trip. We will be looking for early fall migrants. Leaders: Brendan Fogarty and Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Directions:** Take the Wantagh or Meadowbrook Parkway and follow signs to the Coast Guard Station at the West End. Meet at the Coast Guard parking lot with the restrooms.

**Saturday, September 19, 8:00 AM – Jamaica Bay.** Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is internationally known as a premier birding spot in the United States. Leaders: Brent Bomkamp and Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Directions:** Take Southern State Parkway to Cross Bay Boulevard south, exit 17S, and go south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1-1/4 miles from the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light, meet in the parking lot.

**Sunday, September 27, 9:00 AM – Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch at Audubon Center in Greenwich.** An easy drive to see some of the fall raptor migration, especially Broad-winged Hawks. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

**Directions:** From the Hutchinson Parkway in the Bronx, 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 St. The Audubon entrance gate is on your left.

### October 2009

**Saturday, October 3, 9:00 AM – Buttercup Farm Hike and Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary Paddle.** Buttercup Farm Sanctuary is located in the northeastern corner of Dutchess County. At 1:00 we will meet at Ramshorn to kayak or canoe the Sanctuary. Larry Federman of Audubon New York will accompany us. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763). **There is a \$20 fee for this trip. Registration must be done by September 30 to reserve a canoe or kayak.**

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

**Directions to Ramshorn:** Take the NYS Thruway (I-87) to Exit 21. Turn left onto Rt. 23B and stay straight until you reach Rt. 9W. Turn right on Rt. 9W South. From Rt. 9W, turn left (east) onto Grandview Ave., drive around the circle, onto Dubois Road, and down the hill to the Sanctuary.

**Sunday, October 4, 8:00 AM – Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.** Here, if we are lucky, there is the possibility of seeing hawks at just about eye level! There is a short, strenuous hike to the hawk watch. Leaders: Vinny Pellegrino and Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Directions:** (parking is limited, hence, the early start time). Take the NYS Thruway, to Exit 11 (Nyack). Proceed to Route 9W. Turn left onto 9W. Continue past the traffic light, past Christian Herald Road to the top of the hill. At about 1.8 miles from the turn onto 9W look for the unpaved parking pull off on the right (rough surface.) Walk north on east side of the road to triple yellow mark. Proceed up the yellow trail, Paddy's Path to the top of the mountain, about 1/2 mile hike up with some steep sections. Approximate travel time from Syosset is 1 hour.

**Sunday, October 11, 9:00 AM – Robert Moses State Park.** Best place to see migrating raptors on LI. Walks in the surrounding areas should turn up other early migrants. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

**Directions:** Take Sagtikos Parkway to RM Field 2. We will meet at viewing platform at east end of parking lot.

**Saturday, October 31, 9:00 AM – Canoe Trip in Constitution Marsh, Cold Spring, NY.** A marsh naturalist will lead participants through winding channels lined with cattails and other marsh plants, identifying any wildlife observed. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763). **There is a \$20 fee for this two-hour trip, \$15 for children 7-15. Must register by October 27. See next page for directions.**



# killdeer

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

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August – September – October 2009



Printed on recycled paper.

*(Continued from page 7)*

**Directions to Constitution March:** Throgs Neck Bridge or Whitestone Bridge to Hutchinson River Parkway, to 287 West over Tappan Zee Bridge. Off at Exit 13 to Palisades Parkway North to Bear Mt. Bridge. Cross the Bear Mt. Bridge, turn left onto Rt. 9D, go 8 miles north on 9D, through Garrison. Make a left onto Indian Brook Rd. (dirt road at bottom of hill after going over steel bridge), go 1/2 mile. Parking area is on right by the sign.

## The YOC Welcomes a New Member

by Stella Miller

The Youth Outreach Committee (YOC) is pleased to welcome our newest member, Brendan Fogarty, age 16. The YOC was formed in November 2008 and consists of myself, Brent Bomkamp, and Vinny Pellegrino, who are both 16. I cannot tell you how proud I am of these boys. Brent and Vinny have attended every one of our YOC meetings (okay, I did give them the month of June off) seven months in a row. That is very impressive indeed! We are currently working on the formation of young birder only field trips and a Kestrel nest-box project. We will be visiting a senior center this summer to conduct a program on backyard birds while playing bird bingo with the residents. We are also brainstorming on field trip and event ideas in order to attract young members.

Brendan attended our last meeting and jumped right in, offering up valuable ideas. I will let him introduce himself to you: "Hi, my name is Brendan Fogarty. I am from Garden City, in Nassau County. I am 16 and entering my junior year of high school. I have always been enamored with nature and wildlife, but I didn't care much for birds until I was shown an American Oystercatcher on a guided walk in 2001. Once equipped with the National Geographic Field Guide, my interest blossomed. That hobby led to a state of awareness for the imperiled planet. I hope to pursue some form of environmental engineering in college. I also play and enjoy Celtic music, and I enjoy travelling."

## Bird Seed Sale, We're Back!

Huntington Audubon once again will hold a bird seed sale on **Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 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 by September 10, since seed must be ordered in advance. If you don't get a form by then, contact Sharon Brody (516-433-5590). You and your feathered friends will love the seed and the profits support the environment.



**Bird Seed Sale - October 24, 2009  
Huntington High School 9:00 - 2:00**