



Killdeer

August – September – October 2012
Volume 1, No. 1

Huntington–Oyster Bay Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society

Serving Huntington and Northern Oyster Bay Townships

Walk/Run for Wildlife



Lace up your sneakers! HOBAS' first ever walk/run fundraiser will be held on **October 27th at the Planting Fields Arboretum at 9:30 AM.** This fundraiser is for everyone and anyone willing to walk, run, or do a combination of both in order to raise

money for conservation efforts such as habitat restoration, wildlife research projects, and other conservation initiatives. **See the flyer/registration form included with this issue or check our website for details of the event.** Registration is \$25 per person for adults, \$15 for kids under the age of 18, kids 5 and under - free. Raise a minimum of \$50 and not only will the fee be waived, you will receive a commemorative tee shirt. Raise at least \$100 and be entered to win a gift basket filled with \$250 worth of gift certificates from local merchants!

In addition to fundraisers and walkers, we need volunteers on the day of the event to help with registration, hand out water, and act as course marshals. **Contact Stella Miller (516-695-0763 or stella.miller63@yahoo.com) to be part of the team!** Help HOBAS as we work to protect and preserve wildlife and habitat on Long Island.

Birdseed Sale 2012

The **tentative date** for the birdseed sale is **Saturday, November 3, 2012 at Huntington High School.** The birdseed order form will be mailed in September. If you do not receive your order form by the last week in September, call Sharon Brody at 516-433-5590 for information and an order form. The order form will also be available for download at www.hobaudubon.org.



**Sign Up for our
Email List...**

by going to www.hobaudubon.org

**to get the latest updates, alerts, and a color copy
of the Killdeer!**

Inside This Issue

Birdathon	2
From the President.....	3
Highway Cleanups and Birder's Box.....	4
Seeing a Song Sparrow.....	5
Meetings and Events	6
Field Trips and Activities.....	7
New Board/Committee Members and Kids' Programs...8	

Bronx Zoo Needs Perfume Donations

If anyone has any old or new, (I am sure that you have all gotten gifts of scents that you do not like) perfumes, colognes, or after shaves, consider



donating them to the Bronx Zoo. As part of the Animal Enrichment Program, the Bronx Zoo's Mammal Department uses perfumes and colognes to encourage exploratory behavior and stimulate the senses of big cats, wild dogs, and other animals. Their scent supply is running low. This donation would be very much appreciated by everyone at the WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society). Even if there is only a squirt or two left in the bottle, believe me, every drop can be used.

Please look in your closets, your drawers, and under the bathroom sink. Ask your friends and family to look also! We have donated over 300 bottles of perfume to the zoo over the last several years thanks to several prior perfume drives. The animals at the zoo would be VERY grateful.

You can bring your bottles to the September and October monthly meetings. Patrick Thomas from the WCS is our speaker in October and will pick up the donations. Please do not drop off at the library at any other time without express arrangements being made. Thank you for your help. Contact Stella Miller at stella.miller63@yahoo.com for more information.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

Wednesday, September 12, 2012:

Wildlife through the Seasons: A Journey through a Nature Photographer's Lens with Lloyd Spitalnik

Wednesday, October 10, 2012:

Bison: An American Icon with Patrick Thomas, PhD of the Wildlife Conservation Society

See page 6 for details.

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



Killdeer

is the newsletter of the

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
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a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is published five times a year.

Officers

President	Stella Miller	516-682-5977
Vice President	Blair Broughton	516-802-5356
Secretary	Ginger Mahoney	516-922-4599
Treasurer	Cathy Fitts	631-427-8623

Newsletter

Editor	Charlotte Miska	516-922-9710
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For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	516-674-0982
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You can find us on the Web at
www.hobaudubon.org

e-mail us at has@huntingtonaudubon.org

Birdathon 2012
Thanks and Congratulations!



Thanks to the generous support of our friends and members we raised over \$1,800 which will be used to bring you our great monthly programs. Thank you to the team members who birded the event: Blair Broughton, Sharon Brody, Dick Furman, Cathy Fitts, Norm Klein, Ginger Mahoney, Bob May, Stella Miller, Charlotte Miska, Jerry and Beth Pratt, Bill Reeves, Margaret Schaffler, Vinnie Schiappa, and Cindy Wozny. (Go to www.hobaudubon.org for the list of the 111 species seen/heard.) Special thanks for the great job Ginger Mahoney did coordinating the event and soliciting prizes. Everyone who supported the team with a financial contribution was entered into a raffle which was held at the June Membership Meeting.

Prize	Donated by	Winner
Carved folk art shorebird	Local artist: David Bathie	Fran Hauser
Children's books and toys	TR Sanctuary and Audubon Center	Doris Bierhansel
Bird feeder and seed	Martin Viette Nurseries	Eva Marie Wagner
Handmade/painted Majolica feeder	Local potter: Sue Adler	Priscilla Gray-Stoll
Thistle feeder and niger seed	Main Street Nursery and HOBAS	Beverly Wright
Birdy Basket	Simone DaRos and Louise Hublitz	Denise Caracappa
Garden Urn	Patricia Aitken	Alice DelBosco
Lunch for Two at Sapsuckers	Sapsuckers Hops and Grub	Jody Levin
<i>The Birds of Audubon</i>	Alice DelBosco	Gloria Morris
Thrown honey jar and local honey	Local potter: Ginger Mahoney	Marge Saccoccio
Decoupage Tray	Ben's Garden	Lucie Blohm
Birdhouse	Dodds and Eder	Gail Loteman
Tote, ornament, book <i>Exploring the Other Island</i>	HOBAS	Doug Caracappa

When you visit our sponsors, please thank them for supporting your Audubon chapter.

- Ben's Garden, Oyster Bay
- Dodds and Eder, Oyster Bay
- Main Street Nursery, Huntington
- Martin Viette Nurseries, East Norwich
- TR Sanctuary & Audubon Center, Oyster Bay
- Sapsuckers Hobs & Grub, Huntington

From the President

Stella Miller



Long Island and the Cloud Forests of Guatemala – the Avian Conservation Connection

HOBAS is proud to announce that we are partnering with Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC) by providing educational scholarships, at \$150 each, for two young Guatemalan women to continue their schooling

beyond the 6th grade. In order to earn these scholarships, which are privately funded, each scholarship recipient must attend agroecology camp, where they are taught sustainable agricultural practices, conservation of the cloud forests, and family planning. Young women that show leadership skills in this scholarship program are invited into teaching roles for CCFC's "Kids and Birds Initiative" program, which is funded by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. These young women teach the "Kids and Birds Initiative" curriculum to younger students in 8 remote mountain villages. HOBAS' scholarships will specifically support girls who are being trained as teachers.

Why are we sending girls to school in Guatemala? The answer is simple. By providing these scholarships we are doing our part to protect the birds that visit our backyards and natural areas in the warmer months and contributing to the conservation of the cloud forests that they call home. Did you ever stop to think about where the Baltimore Oriole you are enjoying in your backyard spends most of his time? What many people don't realize is that "our" birds of spring and summer are really just visitors, and actually live the majority of their lives in tropical countries such as Guatemala!

In the heart of Guatemala's central highlands are the two mountain ranges of cloud forests, the Sierra Yalijux and the Sierra Sacranix. These two mountain ranges have been designated Important Bird Areas by BirdLife International. Over 30 species of neotropical migrants that visit Long Island call the cloud forest their home in winter. Unfortunately, many bird populations are declining around the world due to a myriad of factors. In Guatemala, deforestation is the main threat to the ecosystem since the local custom is to slash and burn vegetation in the areas to be farmed. In addition, communities face many other challenges, including the lack of education, illiteracy, economic and social marginalization, extreme poverty, and runaway population growth.

With this in mind, reaching out to the younger generation is crucial in preserving local habitats. Instilling a pride and love of the forest, as well as providing sustainable agricultural methods will help preserve the cloud forest.

Students learn to produce healthy food in harmony with the environment and participate in reforestation projects. As they work and learn on the school's agroecology campus, they recognize and appreciate the beauty and value of the forest and become committed to conservation.

There are many things that can be done to alleviate poverty and protect cloud forests, but in undeveloped countries such as Guatemala, education is of paramount importance. Education changes lives and transforms communities. For most young women, school beyond the 6th grade is out of reach. Faced with limited resources, parents are more likely to send their male children to classes. Girls feel they have no choice but to marry at a very young age and start producing children, thereby adding to the overpopulation of these areas. It has been proven around the world that by empowering women, you enrich and strengthen entire communities. These scholarships provide an option that these girls otherwise would not have. This benefits humans, but at the end of the day, it benefits the birds of the forests because a thriving and healthy indigenous people will protect and conserve their natural resources.

As you feed your Baltimore Oriole an orange slice, or head out for warbler madness during migration, it is very easy to forget that these birds actually spend most of their time in the tropics. While it is vital that natural areas are preserved in the tropics, it is not enough to just set aside land. We must ensure that the local people who call that land their home are given knowledge and tools needed to protect the natural resources surrounding them. Habitat can be set aside, but without the cooperation of neighboring communities, these preserves will not be protected by those who are in the best position to act as stewards. Forests will still be cut down, wildlife killed for food, land degraded and its beauty ravished by non-sustainable agricultural practices. Sending children to school in order to provide them with a better life and teaching them to cherish, protect, and sustain their surroundings is a vital step in the process.

Migrant birds travel thousands of miles to reach their breeding grounds, making stops along the way, acting as traveling ambassadors for conservation. By helping to provide youths in Guatemala with the tools needed to farm sustainably while instilling in them a sense of pride in their land, we are working to ensure that birds are protected and have a bright future. It is all connected. *We* are all connected. Investing in these young women in Guatemala is investing in conservation of birds. The Baltimore Oriole in your yard today might be winging its way back to Guatemala tomorrow. We need to protect birds, not just on a local level, but in their winter homes, stopover sites during migration, and breeding grounds. Conservation of birds is a global effort and we hope you will support us as we do our part to protect our feathered friends in every step of their journey! (*Go to www.hobaudubon.org for more details on this project.*)

Outstanding Programs!



HOBAS has concluded another year of high-quality programs at our monthly Members' Meetings and weekend lectures. This past year (September 2011 – June 2012) over 530 people attended these popular programs.

Starting in September, we have another wonderful lineup of programs. (See page 6 for the Fall schedule.) Although all the details have not been worked out yet, other programs scheduled for this year include in January acclaimed author and popular presenter Bill Schutt discussing *Dark Banquet*, *The Lives of Blood Sucking Creatures*. Also in January, a weekend program *Birding in Costa Rica*. March will be *Wildlife of Sudan*, with Dr. Grahame Patterson of the Wildlife Conservation Society. In the spring we will present programs on grasslands, wildlife migration, and lemurs in Madagascar so make no other plans for the second Wednesday of each month.

All programs are due to the hard work and diligence of Stella Miller, Program Chair and HOBAS President. She continually comes up with interesting topics and seeks knowledgeable and engaging presenters, often traveling to preview a program before scheduling it for HOBAS. It is no easy task to juggle the schedules of so many busy people and convince them to come to Cold Spring Harbor. The fact the programs are so well attended and we continue to see new faces is a testimony to Stella's commitment to bringing the very best to the HOBAS community. Thank you Stella for enriching our lives with these enlightening, thought-provoking, and fun programs.

Highway Cleanups

Simone DaRos

The **Pulaski Road Highway Cleanup Crew** has conducted 26 cleanups and collected over 150 bags of roadside debris. We primarily find assorted drink containers which include coffee



cups, beer bottles, and water and sports-drink bottles. In addition to the usual assorted rubbish, we sometimes come upon unfortunate wildlife victims of road kill. There have been several white-tailed deer, at least five Eastern Screech Owls, Yellow Warblers, American Robins, and garter snakes found dead along the roadside.

HOBAS volunteers take pride in helping to maintain the aesthetic beauty of this one-mile stretch nestled between Woodbury Road and Oakwood Road. We hope that our good work will ultimately have a positive influence on the public who travel it. It is our hope that people will place their trash where it belongs; drivers will slow down, adhere to the speed limit, and simply enjoy the beauty of this location.

If you want to be a part of our crew, contact Simone at 516-987-7136.

Cleanups are conducted at 7:30 AM and usually take only about an hour and a half. Meet at the parking lot across from Wicks Farm. The next cleanup days are:

- **Saturday, August 4**
- **Sunday, September 30**
- **Sunday, October 14**
- **Sunday, November 25**

Birders' Box

April 15, Jamaica Bay. Sharon Brody had a lovely day to show 9 birders Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. They saw 61 species including Northern Shoveler, Pied-billed Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Glossy Ibis, Osprey, Forster's Tern, Black-bellied Plover, Barn Owl, Fish Crow, Tree and Barn Swallow, Hermit Thrush, Palm Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and Boat-tailed Grackle.

April 22, Hempstead Lake. Despite a light drizzle, Blair Broughton led 3 birders on an enjoyable walk. Some of the birds seen were Blue-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Eastern Towhee, Song and White-throated Sparrow, and many Yellow-rumped Warblers.

May 6, Central Park. On a warm, cloudy morning, 18 birders joined Blair Broughton for some great spring birding. 45 species were seen including 12 warblers. Highlights were Black-crowned Night Heron, Great-crested Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Nashville, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Wilson's Warblers, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and female Orchard Oriole.

May 13, Garret Mt. Blair Broughton & Margaret enjoyed a beautiful morning exploring this habitat. Some of the 45 birds seen were Bald Eagle, Green Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackpoll, American Redstart, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-eyed Vireo, and Orchard Oriole (and its nest).

June 3, Avalon Park. Four others joined Blair Broughton on a perfect summer morning. A large rookery occupied by Double-crested Cormorants was observed by all. Other birds seen were Black-crowned Night Heron, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Tree Swallow, and lots of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The park was a great place to observe flowers and native plants and we were given a tour of the Amish-built barn.

Species seen on 2012 HOBAS trips: 158

Looking at My 10,000th Song Sparrow but Seeing it for the First Time

John L. Turner

While birding Betty Allen Park in Huntington one day in Spring 2011, I had a revelation (which like all revelations I suppose, wasn't one that I foresaw or expected). I had a little free time and had swung by the park to look for Spring migrants in the hopes of seeing some of the "eye candy" species that pass through Long Island on their way north to breeding grounds. Species such as the brilliant black and orange plumaged Blackburnian Warbler or American Redstart, or yellow and black colored Magnolia Warbler, the strikingly red Scarlet Tanager, or maybe a Ruby-throated Hummingbird with its Christmas colors of green and red. I did see a few migrants that day – several Black-and-white Warblers, a few Yellow-rumped Warblers (aka butterbutts), a diminutive Parula (Warbler), and a single Blue-headed Vireo, all moving about in the tree canopy actively hunting for insects that will provide fuel for their northbound journeys. But what I remember most from the trip was a three-minute long, intimate experience with a singing Song Sparrow.

As I came around a bend on the path that circles the pond, trying to make sure I didn't trip on some tree roots, a small, somewhat nondescript bird flitted



upward into a bright shaft of sunlight that spotlighted a sweet pepperbush shrub about 10-12 feet away. I almost didn't bother to raise the binoculars, realizing it was "just" another Song Sparrow, a brown-colored songbird ubiquitous on Long Island, found in virtually every park and preserve. But what a superb "very common brown bird" it was! Perched on a thin branch the bird began to usher forth its pretty and melodic three-part song. (The Song Sparrow's scientific name is *Melospiza melodia* which means "song finch with the pleasant song".) To do so it tilted its head skyward to better project its voice. At first it was the song that solely captivated me but I soon became aware of, and impressed by, the full extent of the bird's effort to sing. Its whole body shook, indeed vibrated, as it sang, an image which immediately reminded me of the exuberance and energy displayed by professional opera singers. Its throat feathers vibrated especially strongly; the protruding feathers on the throat were reminiscent of the shaggy throat appearance displayed by Common Ravens. Between song bouts it actively preened several wing and body feathers.

The sparrow then wiped its bill. To do it, the bird cocked its head to the side and placed the base of the bill on the branch (the eye was almost touching the branch) and while maintaining contact with the branch, moved its bill along it from base to tip. The bird then quickly turned its head and did the same motion with the other side of its bill. Birds wipe their bills for a few reasons. It can be an aggressive gesture used during a territorial dispute or displacement behavior toward a predator. It is sometimes used during sexual displays and of course, is used to wipe away food items that might stick to its bill like a sticky fruit or a squishy insect part. I wasn't sure why he wiped his bill as I couldn't see any food. Maybe he was annoyed I was encroaching on his territory!

And I had always thought the Song Sparrow was just a brown-and-white streaky bird with a diagnostic dark spot in the middle of its breast. Well, they are brown but this intimate and prolonged view in full sun allowed me to really inspect the colors of this underappreciated songster. What I saw was a diverse assortment of complementary earth tone colors. The streaks on the breast were a dark chocolate brown. The crown was more reminiscent of milk chocolate. The wings and tail were lighter still – a caramel brown and a fawn or light orange color diffused its lower sides. Black flecks run down the wings and a soft grey adorned the side of the face and neck.

So for several minutes I watched a bird, vibrantly alive, behaving as it should – bill wiping, preening to maintain its feather coat, and singing, as it is programmed to do to defend a territory, a song it learns from its parent and neighboring sparrows. This experience pushed to the forefront a thought (the revelation!) that I've long realized but more subtly held in the back of my mind: birds are so much more than mere objects of identification, much more than just part of a visual trophy game or an animated "coin" collection. Because of this humble little sparrow, instead of briefly looking at birds to discern field marks for the purpose of identifying them and checking them off, I now watch them closely and intently for their remarkable beauty, interesting behaviors, fascinating set of adaptations, and the fact, for me, they comprise the most animated forms of life on the planet.

I encourage you to begin to see Song Sparrows this way; if you do, you will soon see all birds in a brand new light!

International Beach Cleanup Day

September 15, 2012, 9 AM

Target Rock NWR

Volunteers Needed! We partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a fun morning. Snacks, water, and giveaways provided. Call Stella Miller, 516-695-0763, to register and for directions.





MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Membership meetings and most activities of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, meeting Board members, and perusing the printed materials available. The program starts promptly at 7:30. **For full program descriptions as well as speaker bio, please go to www.hobaudubon.org.**

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

Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 PM – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Wildlife through the Seasons: A Journey through the Lens of a Nature Photographer* with Lloyd Spitalnik. We'll visit places like Central Park, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Jones Beach, Sterling Forest, Barnegat Light, Cape May, and other locations in the NY metro area.

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

Monday, October 2 – Deadline for the November-December *Killdeer*.

Wednesday, October 10, 7:00 PM – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Bison: An American Icon* with Patrick Thomas, PhD of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Join us as we learn the history of the American Bison and the current conservation efforts in place for one of America's most iconic animals.

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



Children's Programs

Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Presented by Kelly Simmons, Stella Miller, and Tesi Copa.

No unregistered siblings please.

Saturday, August 11, 2012 10:30 AM. Butterfly Discovery Little Naturalists Story Time and Craft Circle. We'll read aloud from the book, *From Caterpillar to Butterfly*, create caterpillars or butterflies to take home, and then go outside to look for butterflies! Craft material will be provided. Group limited to 20.

For ages 3 to 6 and their parents.

Directions to Planting Fields: LIE to Exit 41 North or Northern State Parkway to Exit 35 North. Go north on Rte 106 towards Oyster Bay. Turn left onto 25A Northern Boulevard. Make first right onto Mill River Road. Follow green and white signs to the Arboretum on Planting Fields Road. **There is an \$8/car fee to enter the Park unless you have an Empire pass.**

Saturday, September 22, 7:00 PM. Creatures of the Night Young Naturalists Program and Reader's Circle

Tonight we will read aloud from the book, *Night Creatures* and play night creature bingo to test our knowledge. Then we go outside to try and call in an owl and see and hear what we can! Group limited to 20. **For ages 6 and up.**

Directions to Planting Fields: See August 11 program.

Saturday, October 20, 11:00 AM. Treasures of the Forest, Young Naturalist Walk and Craft Circle

We'll wander the woods at Tiffany Creek Preserve in Oyster Bay Cove. Each child will receive a treasure bag and be encouraged to pick up leaves, sticks, etc. After the walk, we will caravan to Oyster Bay Library to make collages out of the collected treasures, and then read aloud from a book about wildlife of the woods. Group size limited to 15. **For ages 6 and up.**

Directions to Tiffany Creek: Northern Blvd (25A) to Berry Hill Rd, heading North into Oyster Bay. When Berry Hill bears left, continue straight on Sandy Hill Road. Preserve entrance is on left.

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

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, September 9, 8:00 AM. Bring your muck boots as we will walk around the East Pond looking for shore birds and other birds. **Leader:** Sharon Brody. Call 516-433-5590 to register.

Directions: Belt Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd south, exit 17S, 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.

Jones Beach

Sunday, September 23, 9:00 AM. We will look for early fall migrants that take shelter on the barrier beach before continuing south. These could include many of our rarer shorebirds, any Neotropical songbird, and plenty more. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 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, September 30, 9:00 AM. An easy drive to see some of the fall raptor migration, especially Broad-winged Hawks. A great place to view as the Center has many conveniences. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

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 Street. The Audubon entrance gate is on your left.

Robert Moses State Park Hawk Watch

Sunday, October 14, 9:00 AM. Best place to see migrating raptors on LI. Great viewing platform. Walks in the surrounding areas should turn up other early migrants. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: Take Sagtikos Parkway South to the northeast corner of Parking Field 5, at Robert Moses State Park. We will meet at viewing platform at east end of parking lot.

Sunken Meadow State Park

Sunday, October 21, 8:00 AM. Sunken Meadow has a wide range of topography that sustains a variety of flora and fauna. The three miles of beach meets tall, glacier-formed bluffs at the west end of the shoreline. A man-made dam separates the park's brackish creek and marshes from the tidal flats. South of the flats are acres of undeveloped and heavily-wooded rolling hills. **Leader:** Norm Klein. Call 631-261-5327 or 646-932-2087 to register. **NOTE:** A \$10 entrance fee is charged from 7:00 AM on. You may wish to carpool, or if you have an Empire State Passport, admission is free.

Directions: Take Sunken Meadow Parkway north to the end. Meet in the southwest corner of the main parking lot.

Invasive Pull at Shu Swamp Saturday, September 22, 10:00 AM



Join the Shu Crew as we continue our efforts to eradicate English ivy from this beautiful preserve. The area that we have already pulled was covered in trout lily and dwarf ginseng, two spring ephemeral wildflowers in May. Our efforts are paying off! Snacks will be provided to the volunteers. Bring garden gloves if you have them; wear clothes and shoes you don't mind getting muddy.

Call Stella Miller, 516-695-0763, for directions and to register.



Sagamore Hill Nature Walks Saturdays at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM



August 4 – Wildflower Legends & Lore: PowerPoint presentation followed by a walk to hear stories about local wildflowers.

August 11 – General Nature Walk

August 25 – Things that TR Never Saw: Many plants, insects, birds, and animals have appeared here since the early 1900s. Learn about these newcomers, some harmless and others more insidious.

Meet at the Visitor Center at Sagamore Hill in Oyster Bay. There is no charge for admission to the grounds or for the nature walks. Leader: LI Naturalist Lois Lindberg.



Killdeer

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

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Welcome New Board and Committee Members

HOBAS is pleased to announce the addition of two members to our family. Our newest board member, **Kelly Simmons**, joined HOBAS in October 2011. Kelly hit the ground running as co-chair of the Education Committee and also serves on the Walk/Run and Finance Committees. Her background in marine biology, and writing and teaching environmental education is a perfect fit for HOBAS. According to Kelly, "The rewards of developing and teaching environmental programs to others, especially children, provides the opportunity to share my passion of the great outdoors and help shape future stewards." Welcome to the board of directors Kelly!

Tesi Copa is an Environmental Educator with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Prior to that, she was a teacher naturalist at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and before that taught pre-school and kindergarten. When not volunteering with HOBAS, she enjoys yoga, hiking, and the great outdoors. Tesi joined the Education Committee in May 2012 and, together with Kelly and Stella Miller, will be hosting monthly programs for children via the Little Naturalist (for ages 3 to 6) and Young Naturalist (ages 6 and up) programs. Welcome to the committee Tesi!

Monthly Programs for Kids & Parents Corner Webpage



The HOBAS Education Committee is pleased to announce the launch of new monthly education programs that will feature fun and exciting nature and environmental activities for **Little Naturalists (ages 3 to 6)** and **Young Naturalists (ages 6 and up)**.

Programs will be offered each month for one and/or both groups at Planting Fields Arboretum or other locations in the area. The Education Committee consists of Co-Chairs Stella Miller and Kelly Simmons, and committee member Tesi Copa.

The committee is dedicated to reaching out and connecting children to nature, providing a fun and enriching experience, while fostering future generations of conservationists. In addition, please check the HOBAS website for the newly launched **Parents Corner**, which features age-appropriate ideas for getting kids outside, current articles and research, as well as recommended reading for kids.

See page 6 for current program schedule.