

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



# killdeer

January - February 2006

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

---

## Thank You - Customers and Volunteers



Our annual Bird Seed Sale was a success once again thanks to loyal customers and dedicated volunteers. Co-chairs Sharon Brody and Cathy Fitts spent many hours behind the scenes organizing the sale, collating orders, placing and acknowledging them, arranging for the site, and varied other preparatory details. Of course both were at Huntington High School the day of the sale together with the following: Marc Brody, Ann Brosnan, Blair Broughton, Alice Del Bosco, Dick Furman, Ginger Mahoney, Bob May, Rosemary and David Papyanopulos, Jane Schmidt, Vinnie Schiappa, and Marty and Herman Wenz. Although we had fewer orders than last year, our loyal customers helped us realize a profit of about \$5,100. Alice Del Bosco's article, *Where Does the Money Go*, helps us understand how the funds are used and why this is such an important fund raiser. The wild birds thank you, and our Audubon chapter thanks you, one and all.

## Where Does the Money Go?

by Alice Del Bosco



You've seen it so many times you probably don't even look at the italicized notice on the bird seed order form anymore - *Proceeds of this fund raiser will benefit the Huntington Audubon Society and the Environmental Education Programs of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center.*

As members of the Advisory Board of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, Ginger Mahoney and I are fully aware of the thousands of children reached by the programs at TRS each year. And as the head of the Finance Committee for TRS, I can tell you how many thousands of dollars it takes to run those programs and provide them with the facilities to do so. Our Audubon mission emphasizes the need to educate

children and adults to make them more aware of their natural surroundings and how to care for them for future generations. Our chapter Board decided the best way for us to accomplish this is to support the TRS programs which we do with Bird Seed Sale funds and Birdathon proceeds.

Ralph Fumante, president of the TRS Advisory Board, has sent us an appreciative thank you letter from which I quote: *With the generous support of people like you, and organizations like Huntington Audubon Society we will be able to work toward a brighter future for the Sanctuary itself and expand the reach of its educational programs. The Huntington Audubon Society's continual support past, present and future is greatly appreciated and is very meaningful to the Board, Staff, Animals, and most of all the 100,000 people we touch a year. Thank you again, and we look forward to your continued support.*

Knowing how much our support is needed I'm sure we will be motivated to continue this worthwhile project. As our Bird Seed Sale flyer suggests *Call TRS at (516) 922-3200 for a list of their events and plan a visit sometime.*

## October Meeting Postponed

Torrential rains, flooded roads, and no end in sight led to the cancellation of the October 12, 2005 membership meeting. We are happy to announce that we have been able to reschedule the speaker, Ted Gilman, for April 12, 2006. He will be presenting *Cranes and People: A Struggle for Coexistence*. Ted Gilman, an education specialist at Greenwich Audubon, will present a slide program covering the beauty, natural history, and distinct characteristics of cranes and the challenges of managing water and wetlands to fulfill the needs of both cranes and people. The program will cover cranes from around the world, but will focus particularly on the U.S. and China.

## Field Trip Report - Fire Island Hawk Watch by Bill Reeves

We had a very successful field trip to the Fire Island Hawk Watch on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. We walked to the hawk watch platform and visited a banding station operated by Drew Panko and associates. The 10 people who attended saw a total of 56 species of birds, including five species at the banding station. Some of us continued birding in the afternoon. A few of us drove to Jones Beach. Then Marc Brody took a few of us for a boat trip to view birds on the islands near Jones Beach and Point Lookout.

Among the birds seen were a Merlin perching and posing for us, Common Eider, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Osprey, Brown Thrasher, Tree Swallows, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Mockingbird, Palm Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Dark-eyed Junco, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Red-winged Blackbird. At the banding station we had close up views of the following: Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Hooded Warbler.

*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

is the newsletter of the

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

President	Ginger Mahoney	(516) 922-4599
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Blair Broughton	(516) 692-2980
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Alice Del Bosco	(631) 549-0017
Recording Sec.	Louise Hublitz	(631) 271 4386
Treasurer	Petie Szabo	(631) 427-8769

### Newsletter Staff

Co-Editors	Maria Kelly	(631) 673-0937
	Charlotte Miska	(516) 922-9710

### Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert	(212) 979-3070
-----------------	----------------

### For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	(631) 423-0982
TR Sanctuary	(516) 922-3200

You can find us on the World Wide Web at:  
[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)

## January Program

Wednesday, January 11  
Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

### *The Biology of Whales and Dolphins*

Dr. John F. Morrissey will present a PowerPoint presentation that will include current information about the biology of whales and dolphins. Particular emphasis will be placed on their diversity, anatomy and sensory systems, reproduction, feeding behavior, and ability to perform incredible feats, such as diving to depths of one mile for two hours, with an anatomy and physiology that are really quite similar to our own.

Dr. Morrissey earned his Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries in 1991 from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Currently, he is an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Hofstra University, where he teaches Marine Biology, Biology of Marine Mammals, Biology of Fishes, and Tropical Marine Biology. He is the author, along with Dr. Jim Sumich, of the college textbook *An Introduction to the Biology of Marine Life*.

## Featured Volunteer - Some Spouses

Dan Mahoney will tell you Ginger is the active one but he likes to watch for birds on a golf course. He also thoroughly enjoys strolling at Jones Beach State Park, enjoying the air, the water, the views, and the many birds there. But he also participated with Ginger combing local North Shore beaches to locate and report on dead birds for a special study that needed many volunteers. Dan also participates in the Christmas Bird Count. You will also recall seeing him load seed into customers' cars at our Bird Seed Sales year after year. Huntington Audubon has beautiful banners with our name on them that we use for our stations at local festivals. Dan's company made them. He is also most supportive of Ginger's work for Audubon and the TR Sanctuary and accompanies Ginger to the TR galas.

Marc Brody will tell you if it's a choice between birding and fishing, he's going fishing. Clearly that's his priority, yet the fisherman has become a fine birder and helpful Audubon volunteer. As his interest in Sharon grew, so did his participation in Audubon. He jokes that he goes on field trips to carry the scope for Sharon, yet he spots and identifies many good birds for the group. He was a regular loading seed into customers' cars at Bird Seed Sales and he routinely attended membership meetings even before their wedding. As their relationship progressed, so did his volunteering at Audubon. He still works hard at Bird Seed

*Featured Volunteer (Continued)*

Sale day, still carries the scope and attends most membership meetings. He participates regularly in the Christmas Bird Count. A fine photographer, he now takes more bird photos and has shared vacation slides at several Audubon meetings. He also took many slides specifically to create a slide show about breeding birds on Long Island which Sharon used for a wonderful presentation at one of our membership meetings.

We are lucky to have couples like Ginger and Dan Mahoney and Sharon and Marc Brody supporting the Audubon cause. We truly appreciate their continued help. Thanks!

**Oh, Dear, Deer**  
by Maria Kelly

I love to watch deer. They look so beautiful and gentle. At my son's house in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., I get to see deer daily in his back yard as they browse. At times they have been feeding on shrubs five feet from the house. (His neighbors stopped planting some flowers and shrubs because as soon as they came up, the deer feasted on them.) Usually I see does and fawns, but twice in the six years I've been visiting there I saw a buck. It's very exciting to see the antlers. I look forward to seeing deer each time I visit.

I was saddened last winter when my son reported that when he was walking with his children in the woods behind his house, they came across a carcass of a dead deer by the stream. Far from any road, it had no visible wounds, but it was very skinny. He surmised it had starved to death. I also find myself saying "aw" when I drive past a dead deer on the side of a road, obviously road kill.

I was even more saddened when a friend of mine told me of the loss of a young, promising researcher in her department who died recently in a car crash when the car hit a deer.

Deer have become suburbanites, like me. I've lived in the Huntington area for more than 30 years. When I first moved here there were many fewer people and houses and no deer nearby. Now despite extensive development deer have found their way into our community. They have been eating prize landscaping on the East End for years. They have been reported in Caumsett State Park since the late 90's. Sightings around the Seminary on West Neck Road have led to signs announcing their presence. Last year Volunteers for Wildlife asked the Christmas Bird Count participants to also report any deer sightings. (There were none the day of the count.) A friend of mine said deer have been spotted at Coindre Hall, literally blocks from my house which is in a densely populated section of Huntington that was once a community of summer homes.

How and why have the deer moved in? I'm told they probably swam across the Sound from Connecticut in search

of food. Carcasses have been found on the shore and boaters have seen deer swimming in the Sound. Deer have no natural predators in the Northeast. Hunting on LI is very limited as it is in shoreline communities of Connecticut. The life expectancy of deer in the wild is about 16 years. Does usually do not have offspring until they are two years old and give birth to two fawns. But without natural predators deer populations can grow rapidly and that can drastically deplete the resources in their wooded habitats.

Volunteers for Wildlife informed me that Section 11-0919 of Title 6 Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York prohibits the feeding of deer by the public in NY, even by homeowners on their own property. Feeding deer within 300 feet of a road is an additional violation. Feeding deer diminishes their natural fear of humans and cars. Tame deer are a risk to themselves and people because they make auto collisions more likely. A problem exists for both deer and people. A solution needs to be found.

**Travel Opportunities**



- **Costa Rica** - For anyone who was inspired by our September program on Costa Rica or is thinking about a trip there, Joyann Cirigliano from the Sweet Briar Nature Center in Smithtown is leading an eco-tour to Costa Rica from April 2 - 9, 2006. For more information, please contact her at (631) 979-6344.
- **Chincoteague, VA** - Arlene Scholer is once again organizing a joint trip for Huntington Audubon and the Adirondack Mountain Club to Chincoteague to coincide with Spring migration (April 28 - May 1, 2006). Details were in the last issue of the *Killdeer*. The deadline for reservations is January 13. **Please note that your initial deposit commits you to the trip and the final balance.** Contact Arlene at (516) 354 - 0231 before 8:30 PM, or via e-mail: arlmar@att.net.

**February Program**  
 Wednesday, February 8  
 Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
 7:30 PM Program

*Members' Night*

Members' night gives us a chance to get to know one another better as individuals. We invite our members to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature with the audience that evening. Some of us have slides, still photos, hobby collections, equipment or mementos; others share stories and books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. **We will also be showcasing the work of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee at this meeting.**

## Carl Safina - Ecologist, Author, Birder, Long Islander

by Maria Kelly

A prominent ecologist, Carl Safina is the founder and president of the Blue Ocean Institute based in Cold Spring Harbor. A recreational fisherman since childhood, his love for the oceans and its creatures led him to a Ph.D. in Ecology at Rutgers University. In 2003, that university gave him an award as the most distinguished alumnus in the history of the Ecology and Evolution Program. The list of his awards is lengthy, but perhaps the two most prestigious are the Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation received in 1991 and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Genius Fellowship Award 2001- 2005. (Yes, it is called a genius award.) *Audubon* magazine listed him as one of the Top 100 Conservationists in the Twentieth Century in 1999. (He founded the Living Oceans program in 1990 for National Audubon serving about 10 years as vice-president for ocean conservation for the NAS.) A visiting fellow at Yale, Carl was featured on the Bill Moyers PBS Special "Earth on the Edge" and was profiled in both the Science Times section of the *New York Times* and Long Island's *Newsday*. He teaches at Stony Brook and LIU.

The author of over a hundred scientific and general audience articles on ecology and marine conservation, Safina's first book *Song for the Blue Ocean*, published in 1998 won four prestigious awards. It was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year; it won the Los Angeles Times Award for Nonfiction as well the Lannan Literary Award for Nonfiction, and was a Library Journal Best Science Book. Carl co-authored with Mercedes Lee and Suzanne Iudicello the *Seafood Lover's Almanac*. Many reviewers praised that volume for educating readers about balancing a seafood diet with a strong conservation ethic. That book was given the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation outstanding achievement award.

In 2003, his most recent book, *Eye of the Albatross - Vision of Hope and Survival*, won the John Burroughs Medal which has been awarded each year since 1926 to books "that combine scientific accuracy, descriptions of fieldwork, and creative natural history writing." It was also awarded the National Academies Communication Award for explaining a scientific topic to the general public better than any other book published that year. How refreshing: a prominent scientist who can communicate clearly to the general public. His books have been praised often for both their readability and poetic descriptions.

Although most of his conservation efforts have related to the sea, Carl Safina's love for birds was sparked when a high school classmate at Syosset High School invited him to help with a bird banding project on Fire Island. He

sometimes refers to wild birds as "living jewels". He trained hawks, worked briefly with falcons for the Peregrine Fund, and worked for the National Audubon Society studying hawks and seabirds, particularly terns around Long Island. In *Eye of the Albatross* he focuses on a bird that spends its life at sea, except when nesting.

Born in 1955, Carl Safina moved to Syosset at age 10. He fished and enjoyed nature around Oyster Bay, Cold Spring Harbor, Huntington, and Lloyd Neck and studied skimmers and terns in waters off the south shore and east end. He lived in Islip for 23 years and did more fishing all over LI. Although he traveled extensively doing research for his publications, on the website for the Blue Ocean Institute he writes "But what Dorothy said is true, there's no place like home." And "I love living on Long Island because of its fabulous semi-annual migrations of fish and birds." Now Carl lives in Amagansett with Patricia Paladines and her daughter, Alexandra.

**Editor's note: Carl Safina will be speaking about albatrosses at our March 8 meeting. Mark the date on your calendar!**



### March Program

Wednesday, March 8  
Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Program

#### *Albatrosses*

Carl Safina followed albatrosses to the far corners of the world in the course of researching his book *Eye of the Albatross*. He spent months in distant oceans, chronicling the travels of one particular albatross named Amelia, whose stupendous travels were tracked via satellite as she ranged thousands of miles to find food for her famished chick. Albatrosses cover distances equivalent to flying around the Earth at the equator three times every year. A 50-year-old albatross has flown, at minimum, 3.7 million miles. Because they range so far and live so long, albatrosses intersect and contend with almost every effect that people exert upon the sea. Safina shares what their survival teaches us about persistence, hope, and how the oceans are changing.

**Ithaca, October 22, 2005**  
**by Alice Del Bosco**

Does the name Tim Gallagher sound familiar? Does it make you wish you could hear him tell about his adventures looking for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker? This was our after dinner treat on the Saturday night of our fall New York State Audubon Council meeting. Listening to Tim's experiences leading up to the discovery kept the whole audience spellbound and left us with no doubt that they have indeed found the bird. You too, could enjoy great speakers, fine fall field trips, and activities to enhance your Audubon experience. Our fall and spring New York State Audubon Council meetings are open to all whether you're a chosen delegate or not. Look for announcements in future *Killdeers*.

This year it wasn't a "fine, fall field trip." It was raining. Instead we toured the breathtaking new building at Sapsucker Woods and sat in the beautiful, renowned Fuertes room learning about the programs of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Brian Sullivan, currently project leader for eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)), had excited everyone about the program the night before. Check it out and learn how you can contribute to the wealth of knowledge being collected. There are other programs for backyard bird watchers and one for school children, all designed as aspects of their citizen science programs.

There were the usual business meetings and workshops that bring us up-to-date on legislative actions, new projects (Watch for the Dragonfly project Richard Haley is bringing to Audubon Centers, including the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary), and what other chapters are doing. The ending, our trip back home on Sunday, was beautiful. The sun had come out, the leaves were spectacular, and we were driving through the bucolic setting of upstate New York. It's comforting to know that there are still areas like that in New York to enjoy. Join us in Saratoga in March.

**Spectacular Photography**  
**by Maria Kelly**



Our speaker at the May meeting, Bob DeCandido, gave a marvelous presentation "Asia from West to East: Birding from Israel to Borneo and Stops in Between 2001-2005". His information was fascinating and the photography was spectacular. Unbeknownst to me, until Bob gave him credit, many of the photos Bob used were taken by Laurence Poh, a photographer I heard about, then checked on the internet in the past year. I had written an article about Poh's website for the *Killdeer*, but space limitations postponed its publication. What follows is my original article.

The catastrophe of the tsunami has affected us all. The

location of Malaysia was especially clear to me because I had looked it up on a globe not long before for much more pleasant reasons. Howard Boltson had e-mailed me about a fine website with outstanding photos taken by Laurence Poh, an avid birder who was active with the Malaysian Nature Society. When I visited the web site, I found out that Poh pioneered the technique called "digiscoping" which means attaching a digital camera to the eyepiece of a spotting scope, using a home-made adapter and shooting through the lens of the scope. (I have since been informed that many people were experimenting with digiscoping at that time and now it is common practice.)

The photos are magnificent! Most of the pictures shown are Malaysian species; there are over 600 species of birds in Malaysia. How ironic that I became so aware of Malaysian birds at the time after the tsunami. But when cataclysmic events strike, the human spirit somehow finds strength. I hope the beauty of the Malaysian birds and the regularity of migration help people find solace and beauty.

The web site also expresses thanks from the family of Laurence Poh, who passed away in September of 2004, "for the overwhelming response and support to us through this time of loss." Another irony when read after the December 26, 2004 tsunami. The web site is a testimonial to Poh's skill in photography and the beauty of the Malaysian birds he dearly loved. The site contains a small collection of his many photos. All the pictures are copyrighted. The web address is <http://www.laurencepoh.com>. It is well worth visiting.



**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)
- Huntington Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Make check payable to: Huntington Audubon Society.**

**Send your check and application to: Huntington Audubon Society, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735**



## 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 Huntington Public Library except for the months of July and August. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with refreshments and socialization followed by announcements and the featured speaker programs from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Board of Directors meetings are open to all HAS members. Board delegates are expected to attend.

### January 2006

**Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Dr. John F. Morrissey, Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Hofstra University, where he teaches Marine Biology, Biology of Marine Mammals, Biology of Fishes, and Tropical Marine Biology will present "The Biology of Whales and Dolphins". This PowerPoint presentation will include current information about the biology of whales and dolphins. Particular emphasis will be placed on their diversity, anatomy and sensory systems, reproduction, feeding behavior, and ability to perform incredible feats, such as diving to depths of one mile for two hours, with an anatomy and physiology that are quite similar to our own.

**Wednesday, January 18, 7:30 PM** - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

**Tuesday, January 31** - Deadline for the March - April *Killdeer*.

### February 2006

**Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Members' Night. We invite our members to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature with the audience that evening. Some of us have slides, still photos, or hobby collections, others have equipment or mementos, some share stories or books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. **We will be showcasing the work of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee.**

**Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 PM** - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

### March 2006

**Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Carl Safina followed albatrosses to the far corners of the world in the course of researching his book, *Eye of the Albatross*. He spent months in distant oceans, chronicling the travels of one particular albatross named Amelia, whose stupendous travels were tracked via satellite as she ranged thousands of miles to find food for her famished chick. Albatrosses cover distances equivalent to flying around the Earth at the equator three times every year. A 50-year-old albatross has flown, at minimum, 3.7 million miles. Because they range so far and live so long, albatrosses intersect and contend with almost every effect that people exert upon the sea. Safina shares what their survival teaches us about persistence, hope, and how the oceans are changing.

**Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 PM** - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

### Birders' Box

The 12/3/05 trip to North Shore ponds and harbors added one new bird to our year's total, Northern Pintail. On the trip 33 species were seen including Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Belted Kingfisher, and American Coot.

**Total number of species seen this year on official HAS trips is 139.**

## Albatrosses by Maria Kelly

We've all heard the name for the bird, we may remember reading the *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and we know the expression "an albatross around his neck." When I visited the Galapagos I saw albatrosses, but I know little about them.



In the Prelude section of *Eye of the Albatross*, Carl Safina writes, "These immense creatures we call "albatross" are the greatest long distance wanderers on Earth. Big birds in big oceans, albatrosses lead sprawling lives across space and time traveling to the limits of seemingly limitless seas. They accomplish these distances by wielding the

impressive-wondrous, really-body architecture of creatures built to glide indefinitely . . ." Later he continues, "Almost everything about albatrosses is superlative and extreme. Extreme in size, in duration, in endurance. Even the smallest species have six-foot wing spans." Then he notes, "Because they range so far and live so long, albatrosses intersect and contend with almost every effect that people exert upon the seas . . . Everything people are doing to oceans, albatrosses feel."

These are fascinating creatures and I know so little about them. I am excited that I will have the opportunity to see Carl Safina's Power Point presentation on albatrosses at the March meeting. Come join us. (*See related article in this issue.*)



## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free and open to the public. Birding with a group is 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 at 9:00 AM at the birding site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. 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.

### January 2006

**Sunday, January 8, 9:00 AM** - Massapequa Preserve and Wantagh Twin Ponds. Ducks up close including Green-winged Teals, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Widgeons, and often Snipe are seen. Some land birds as well. Leader: Blair Broughton (516- 692-2980).

**Directions:** Take Southern State Parkway to exit 30S, Broadway, Massapequa. Go south on Broadway to Euclid Ave. Turn left onto Euclid 2 blocks to the T intersection, Parkside Blvd. Turn left again onto Parkside and park along the road adjacent to the Park. You'll see the opening for the entrance to the Park. We'll meet at the opening.

### February 2006

**Saturday, February 11, 9:00 AM** - Point Lookout. Look for Loons, Grebes, and Harlequin ducks which are usually seen on LI only at Point Lookout. Leader: Blair Broughton (516- 692-2980).

**Directions:** Take Meadowbrook Parkway to the Loop Parkway. At the end of the Loop Parkway turn left. Go to the end of the road. Park anywhere near the entrance to the Park. We'll meet by the gate to the Park.

**Sunday, February 26** - ALL Day Trip to Montauk Point. Meet at 9:00 AM by the restaurant at Montauk Point. Winter waterfowl abound, including Scoters, Eiders, Loons, Gannets, and numerous pond ducks. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

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



### March 2006

**Sunday, March 12 - Saturday, March 18 at 6:00 PM** - Woodcock watch at Wick's Farm. Each evening at 6 PM Dick Furman or Maria Kelly will be near the building opposite White Post Farm's parking area on Pulaski Rd. to guide birder's into the area of Wick's Farm where Woodcocks were seen displaying last year around mid-March. The displays occur at dusk. Bring a flashlight to see your way back to the road. Contact Dick Furman (631-692-7356) or Maria Kelly (631-673-0937).

**Directions:** from the east take Pulaski Rd. west passed Oakwood Rd. in Huntington. From the west take Woodbury Rd. toward Huntington. When Woodbury Rd. veers to the left after the Cold Spring Harbor RR Station stay straight. That becomes Pulaski Rd. White Post Farms is about one quarter of a mile from there.

**Saturday, March 25** - Rare Bird Alert. We will attempt to locate birds reported on the Rare Bird Alert that week. Contact the leader for directions. Leader: Maria Kelly (631-673-0937).

### We're Invited . . .

. . . to join the Adirondack Mountain Club on these trips. Register to get car pool information.

**Sunday, January 1, ALL DAY TRIP, 8:00 AM** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Start Your Year's List" trip. Start local and follow the birds. Leader: Richard Furman (631-692-7356); call before 9:00 PM. MUST REGISTER by Thursday, December 29.

**Saturday, January 28, ALL DAY TRIP, 9:00 AM** - Pelham Bay to Hudson River for eagles and owls. Co-leaders: Richard Furman (631-692-7356) and Arlene Scholer (516-354-0231); call before 9:00 PM. MUST REGISTER by Thursday, January 26.



# killdeer

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

Forwarding Service Requested

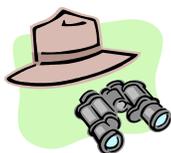
Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Huntington, NY  
Permit No. 546

January - February 2006



Printed on recycled paper.

## The Luxury of Long, Leisurely Looks by Maria Kelly



Birders are used to rapid glimpses, flitting warblers and short looks just the way many birds act at a feeder. Grab a bite, zip away. “Where?” “It flew” are comments often heard when birding. So when we have the luxury of long, close, leisurely views we relish them. Last spring I was lucky to have several such experiences.

The week before the Birdathon I had wonderful long looks at Bobolinks at Stillwell Woods. I saw them perched in the trees, feeding in the field, sitting atop a tuft of grass, flying from the field to the trees and back into the field. Facing me - all jet black, sideways showing a buffy neck patch, back turned clearly displaying white and black markings on their backs. Then they started the routine again. Marvelous views for over 10 minutes.

Then on the Birdathon, the water hole at Forest Park, dry except for a drip device placed there by a generous bird lover, provided wonderful long looks of several birds. A Scarlet Tanager perched for a while waiting its turn for water. It was low, in good light, moving a bit closer as birds vacated the water showing its brilliant scarlet body contrasted with its jet black wings. Later a Blackburnian Warbler waited. First it was sideways then it faced us, its neon orange throat shining in the sun. No wonder one of its common names was fire throat. Soft, delicate coloring was also on display there as a Parula Warbler turned this way and that so we could clearly see the soft greenish patch on

its blue-gray back, then its bright yellow breast and soft rusty neck band. Such subdued beauty.

That same day a muddy patch by the side of a trail at Jamaica Bay was the site for incredibly long looks at a Sora. Imagine that. A bird I go years without seeing and there it was, calmly foraging 5 feet away. The plump 8-inch bird pecking with its yellow beak, now turning its head to show the black patch on its face and throat, now showing its short tail cocked in the air, then with the sun featuring the stripes on its belly. We stayed watching it for over 5 minutes. That’s a luxury.

The following week I had the very best look I’ve ever had of a Black-billed Cuckoo at Hempstead Lake State Park. Tucked back a short way in some low trees (Cuckoos are seldom out in the open) it was facing us. You could plainly see the gray tail with light stripes across it and because it was about 12 feet away and no more than 10 feet off the ground its black bill was unmistakable as it contrasted with its bright white chin and chest. We watched it for a short while then it moved over, behind some branches. I moved over to get a better view and did I ever. The Cuckoo was partially hidden by a gray mass. Then it positioned itself better to feed on tent caterpillars and inadvertently gave me a full view. One caterpillar down the hatch, pause, bend the head, grab another, little gulp, part way down, more gone, all gone. Pause. Repeat. Pause. Repeat. It usually paused between morsels, but occasionally it got greedy and gobbled. What a treat for him and for me.

Now that I am retired I tell people I am enjoying life in the slow lane. Birding in the slow lane is fantastic!