

## The Huntington Audubon Society

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

January - February 2009

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

---

### **Birding Hotspot: Winter Ponds by Brent Bomkamp**

Most birders agree that the highlight of the winter season on the North Shore is the abundance of waterfowl. Thousands of breeding-plumaged ducks arrive in our area during late fall to spend the winter on the nutrient-rich ponds and bays along the Long Island Sound. The area covered by HAS contains numerous great waterfowl hotspots, most of which are easily accessed and birded. Perhaps the most well known pond in the area is St. John's Pond. Located directly behind the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery on 25A, St. John's Pond is one of the larger ponds in our area, and generally one of the most productive. It is most easily viewed by parking in the Fish Hatchery lot, and then walking up the set of stairs in the back of the parking area. On a typical midwinter day, one can find more than 10 species of waterfowl; usually the diversity includes large numbers of Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and American Coot. This is also the best place in our area to find Common Merganser and Redhead, both of which usually are represented by one or two individuals. Some rare birds recorded on the pond include Eurasian Wigeon, Great Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, and Tundra Swan. Another very productive body of water is the Mill Pond in Oyster Bay, which is an excellent place to find many of the same species as St. John's Pond, but usually without the same quantity of diving ducks. Large numbers of Wigeon and Green-winged Teal can often be found along the edges of the pond. Mill Pond also has the potential to turn up some less common species, including Eurasian Wigeon. Some HAS members might remember the trip there which found a road-killed River Otter there. Mill Pond is located at the end of West Main Street, where the road splits into Mill Hill Road and West Shore Road.

If you live in the eastern section of the HAS area, then

you are probably familiar with the pond on the corner of Centershore Rd and 25A in Centerport. Often called Tung Ting Pond after the Chinese restaurant which was formerly at the site, the pond is best viewed from the Chalet Motor Inn parking lot at the intersection. Tung Ting, along with adjacent Centerport Mill Pond, has the tendency to generate some of the rarer sightings along the North Shore. As a spring-fed pond, even in the dead of winter Tung Ting will usually have a lot of open water. Some rather unusual species have been seen here including Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, and Wilson's Snipe. Perhaps the rarest of all was a Gyrfalcon which was present several years ago. A little farther down 25A is the Betty Allen Preserve, which is also frequented by quality waterfowl. The pond in the back is reliable for Northern Pintail, Ring-necked, and Wood Duck. Also check for Rusty Blackbirds and Winter Wrens which can be found feeding in the numerous streams and wet areas which run around the property. Slightly past Betty Allen is Northport Harbor, which can be scanned most easily from the Village Dock, which is at the end of Woodbine Avenue off of 25A. Large numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers and Buffleheads usually congregate here, and the dock provides close up views which are hard to find anywhere else. Nearby Asharoken Beach is also an excellent location to view wintering sea ducks. Huge flocks of Great Scaup usually numbering in the thousands can be found here during late winter and spring. It is also a reliable place to find Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, and Great Cormorant. Asharoken can be reached by making a left onto Eaton's Neck Road at the end of Ocean Avenue in Northport. The beach will be on your left soon after making the turn.

We are lucky to have so many excellent hotspots in the HAS area, and it is always a treat to see great birds so close to your home.

**January Program**

**Wednesday, January 14**  
**Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments  
 7:30 PM Speaker

***From the Bronx to the Andean Steppes:  
 Enhancing Field Conservation Techniques  
 Through Zoo Research***

How can you collect hair samples from Africa's big cats for DNA analysis? How can you determine whether there is a "downside" to live-shearing wild guanacos as a conservation strategy? How can you assess snow leopard populations by examining their "poop"? The answers to all these questions were gleaned, at least in part, through research in zoos. Dr. Pat Thomas will tell you about these and other examples of how research conducted in zoos can benefit wildlife conservation.

*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	Stella Miller	(516) 682-5977
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Blair Broughton	(516) 802-5356
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Ginger Mahoney	(516) 922-4599
Recording Sec.	Ginger Mahoney	(516) 922-4599
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)**

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

**Valued Member - Norm Klein**

by Maria Kelly

A few weeks ago I bumped into a long time HAS member who has supported Audubon behind the scenes for quite some time. But since he usually doesn't attend membership meetings, and seldom birds with a group, I don't see him often.

But Norm Klein is an active Audubon member. Citizen science is his preferred form of support. A fine birder, Norm prefers to bird with one or two people or alone. He does make exceptions. For many years he has been participating in Audubon's Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count. He also does the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Winter Waterfowl Census regularly. Occasionally he comes on the Birdathon. He now keeps track of the birds that are seen at Sunken Meadow State Park updating the display case there regularly.

Many of us know him for his generous hospitality. The year that a female Selaphorous Hummingbird visited his yard daily for over two months in the fall/winter, countless birders were welcomed at his home. He even attended a Huntington Audubon membership meeting to personally invite all to his home in Northport to see that marvelous rarity for our area. He named her Ilse, after the heroine from the classic movie *Casablanca*. As many of you movie buffs will remember the often quoted line - "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine." In Norm's bird log he wrote - "of the all backyards she had to pick mine."

It was a pleasure to bird with Norm again and I look forward to seeing him more often.

**Oyster Festival 2008**

Once again, HAS was present at one of the biggest festivals on Long Island. - the Oyster Festival in Oyster Bay. This year the event was held October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We shared a booth with our friends from the TR Sanctuary. We handed out literature, talked about what we do as an organization, and answered questions. Thank you to all who stopped by and especially to the volunteers who helped out.

**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.**



## Persistence Pays

by Maria Kelly



In the Fall of 2007 a number of events came together to reinforce my belief in the adage “If at first you don’t succeed . . .”

On Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, I went birding with a group to the Coast Guard Station at Jones Beach. When we got there I found out two in the group were on a mission to find the Saw Whet Owl that had been reported somewhere in the median near the Station. Since I hadn’t seen a Saw Whet in perhaps 10 years, here on LI, although others had, I was eager to see one again. Saw Whet Owls are not impressive, like a Great Horned Owl. Cute or adorable are more likely descriptors for these 8-inch birds, without ear tufts, sporting soft vertical brown stripes on their white chests and the typical discs around the eyes. Like most birders, I don’t get to see many owls in the wild but with the two excellent birders combing the pines for it, I anticipated success at any minute, especially since another birder said he’d seen it earlier.

As we returned to the parking lot at the end of the trip, quite disappointed, one of our group who lagged behind with a few others came waving to us. They found the owl. Out of the cars, off to the pines in the median, only to hear as we approached the reported spot that something had spooked the owl and it flew away, just before we got back. I was shown exactly where it had been and a photographer there showed me another tree where he had seen it a few times. I tried to memorize the trees and the path since I planned to return the next day.

On Wednesday, October 31, I birded with a group in Wantagh, not all that far to Jones Beach Coast Guard Station and a possible Saw Whet. After birding in Wantagh, three of us drove to the median near the Coast Guard Station and searched. Smaller group, good. This time I’ll definitely see it I thought. Quietly we scoured the area. No luck. I had an appointment that afternoon in Huntington and left before the other couple.

On Wednesday, November 7, I went birding at the Marine Nature Center in Oceanside, not all that far from Jones Beach, planning to swing by to look for the owl after the scheduled walk. “We saw the Saw Whet after you left last week. I didn’t find it. It was pointed out to me by another birder and even with him pointing I had trouble seeing it until a breeze ruffled its feathers. It was a little further than where we had been looking.” The couple had seen it. His wife commented, “At first I thought it was a big pine cone, then it moved a bit. Really hard to see. Wonderful!”

After the walk I went straight to Jones Beach and began searching. No appointment today. Plenty of time. I walked all around the area slowly, looking with and

without binoculars wandering all around the section I was told to look in, retracing my steps, looking from every possible angle. As I was heading back to the car, still on the outskirts of the section where the owl had been reported I heard women’s voices. Two ladies carrying very large cameras were approaching. When asked they replied they’d seen the Saw Whet earlier and were back to take more photos. “We’ll show you.” Aha! It is here! I thought. “It was right on that branch earlier” the woman said. Then she spotted it. The owl had moved up a bit, concealing itself more, but from another vantage point clearly visible.

Adorable! The Saw Whet was sidled right up against the central tree trunk, head turned back and tucked in, the way gulls and ducks turn around to sleep. A very pretty bird, even with its head turned away. I spoke softly. The photographers talked in a normal volume telling how they had seen it facing them at first, but then it snuggled and went to sleep. I was only about 10 feet from it with an unobstructed view! Saw Whets don’t perch up very high. It was perhaps 12 feet off the ground. After a couple of minutes watching it, a breeze ruffled its feathers, it moved its feet which were barely visible beneath the fluffed feathers, shifted its weight, without turning its head, and continued to stay perfectly still for us. I looked with and without my binos. What a treat! The photographers let me have the best views for quite a while. I thanked them profusely as I left and they showed me the frontal picture they got earlier with its eyes open. Persistence pays.



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

### February Program

Wednesday, February 11  
 Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

### *Members Night*

Members’ Night is a long-standing HAS tradition where extra time is allotted for chatting and getting to know one another better. We invite our members to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature with the audience that evening. Some of us bring slides, still photos, or hobby collections, others bring mementos, some share stories or books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. Bill Reeves will present a brief program on the New York State Young Birders Club.

## Out on a Limb by Alex Mckay

### 100 Years

2008 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Roger Tory Peterson and the publication of the first edition of a revised volume combining the former eastern and western guides into the *Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America*. Commemorating the centennial of America's foremost birdman, the guide has digital updates of Peterson's original plates, new range maps, and a text rewritten with up-to-date information and nomenclature. About the size of the Sibley guide, the format provides enlarged bird portraits with the familiar Peterson arrows and keys to field identification that revolutionized bird study when his first guide was released in 1934. It is a must addition to every birder's library.

I recently participated with Bill Reeves in a celebration of Peterson's remarkable life and accomplishments at a session of the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Farmingdale State College under the direction of Walter Chaskel. Bill and I had the opportunity to recount our meetings with Roger when he appeared in Huntington in the early 70's as a presenter in the Wildlife Film Series sponsored by Huntington Audubon. While waiting to introduce our speaker I asked if he ever referred to his own guide. I remember his answer: "Never the Eastern; occasionally the Western." Bill recalled helping Roger load his equipment into his car and hearing a "Cheet" overhead. "Did you get that Tree Swallow, Bill?" asked the master. Walter told of attending a dedication at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York where Peterson was born and as a boy painted his first bird, a Blue Jay. Walter missed Roger, but not the Blue Jays that flew overhead as if on cue.

During the program, we traced a career that began with a boy touching a sleeping flicker on a tree in Jamestown, an experience that ignited a lifelong fascination with birds and ended as the artist in his Old Lyme studio was placing the finishing touches on a flycatcher plate for the new book in 1996. During the eighty-seven years of his life, Peterson gained renown as illustrator, fine artist, film maker, photographer, author, lecturer, environmentalist, and educator. He traveled the globe in search of birds and shared his experiences in both pictures and words. His early *Wild America*, written in conjunction with his British counterpart, James Fisher, is a classic narrative of a journey to natural areas and habitats around the continent. A recent collection of his columns with wide-ranging topics for Bird Watcher's Digest, *All Things Reconsidered: My Birding Adventures*, is another must addition to your library.

American ornithology up to the time of Peterson and his

mentor Ludlow Griscom, was mainly the pursuit of museum specialists who identified their specimens after they had been shot and collected. Popular bird guides, such as Chester Reed's little handbook, had drawings of a limited number of familiar birds. A serious guide, such as Chapman's *Birds of Eastern North America*, required following a complicated key and almost demanded a dead bird in the hand. Peterson's guides, from a first printing of 2,000 copies, went through five editions and innumerable printings that have resulted in over 8,000,000 copies that simplified field identification and made bird watching one of the most popular outdoor pastimes in America.

As I hold the centennial edition in one hand and look at my copy of the antique first edition with its primarily black and white plates by my side, I marvel at the changes that have occurred in the century since Peterson's birth and the seventy-five that have passed since the first guide and my own lifetime. Now, you can even go to [www.petersonfieldguides.com](http://www.petersonfieldguides.com) and click onto video podcasts that give identification tips, tutorials, songs and calls, and a visual biography of Roger Tory Peterson. I recommend that also.

## What is Audubon NY Working on in Albany & DC? by Alice Del Bosco

Of course Long Island Sound gets a lot of attention. In 2007 the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which concerns the water quality of the Sound, and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act (LISSA) which concerns the ecological and recreational sites within the LI Sound ecosystem, were funded at \$4,922 million. This was a significant increase from funding in previous years and was accomplished with many hours of effort from our staff working with our Long Island representatives. In 2008, they continued to advocate for full funding of these two acts.

Other Federal issues: Al Caccese and Sean Mahar travel to Washington to work on are the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Funding to be spent on bird habitat conservation efforts both here and abroad. Another is the Farm Bill advocating the inclusion of New York State specific interests.

On State issues they work on the Bigger, Better Bottle bill to include non-carbonated beverage containers and to take back the "unclaimed" nickel deposits on bottles that are not redeemed to put that money in the State's Environmental Fund. They also work on the Sales Tax Exemption for Hybrids and High Efficiency Vehicles and the Outdoor Lighting Act which would decrease threats to migrating birds to name a few. Our State Audubon reps focus on environmental issues that affect us all.



**Up-Country**  
by Bill McAneny

The November-December *Killdeer* had an article about Doris Bierhanzl. It is heart-warming to read about old friends who are long time contributors to HAS activities. It is a pleasant surprise to read about newer members, too, like Charlie Skinas, who are finding gratification in working for a conservation/birding organization. This issue, I would like to have your attention for a few minutes on the subject of Volunteering and the similarities and differences between the up-country and the down-country - er, Long Island.

First of all, there are several motivations for volunteering. One is the desire to be a good club member with people you like or whose goals are the same as yours. Another is to show off a little. Here's a job I can do and do it well. Watch me shine. Then there is the feeling of accomplishment, both for the individual and for the organization. There's a job to be done and together we can do it. Finally, there is a little last-ditch desperation. If I don't do it, it won't be done, and that is unacceptable.

No matter why a person starts to volunteer, there is always one good conclusion. The club becomes your club, your mission, and your social group. It may even become your favorite charity. I think you are now hooked.

On Long Island, there are a zillion people. I don't know why they all don't belong to Huntington Audubon, but they don't. Well, their loss. What you are likely to find is that visitors to a meeting are strangers. They know nobody but they know the Audubon name or they read a notice in the newspaper. How do you get them to come again?

A few years ago, OK, a whole lot of years ago, a couple came to a HAS meeting and later claimed that it didn't seem friendly. We were dismayed. How many potential members had we lost because no one talked with the visitors? We changed things. Everyone got a name tag. We had a greeter at the door who would steer visitors to a conversation group. We shared refreshments before the meeting. We weren't perfect but some of you may be members now because you felt welcomed.

What does this have to do with volunteers? One way to run a club is to wait for new folks to feel comfortable and then they will volunteer, right? Another way is to give the new folks a job. Y'know, I'll wash and you dry, or some variation of that. Invite them right away to participate in running the club. Don't be a stranger. A wise man once said, a stranger is a friend I haven't met yet. (OK, was that Will Rogers?) The reality on Long Island is that there are a million strangers and you have to carefully develop relationships to build a sturdy volunteer corps.

What is different in the up-country? We don't have a zillion people. Heck, we have barely a couple thousand. As a new resident, you go to an event and meet a few people. You go to another event and see the same people. The same people are at church, on the golf course, at the gun club, at the ice cream social - well, gee. That's all the people we have, so what did you expect? So when something needs to be done, you don't have to try to make your cause attractive to newcomers or strangers. You pick up a dish towel and start drying! As a newcomer, when you volunteer, you become instant family. Volunteering is a way to let people know what kind of person you are.

If you are reading this column and thinking of volunteering, don't wait to be asked. Introduce yourself to the club officers and ask for an assignment. If that doesn't sound like it would work for you, volunteer in a different club, or at your spiritual support group, or at the food kitchen. No matter where you do it, you will find it is incredibly rewarding. You will meet some of the nicest people in your community. And maybe in the not too distant future, I will be reading about you in the *Killdeer*.

*Editor's Note: Bill McAneny was an active member of HAS for more than 35 years. During that time he served two terms as president, was editor of the Killdeer, coordinator of Armchair Activist from its inception, and HAS representative to numerous local, state, and national committees.*



**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 11743-073**



## 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.

### January 2009

**Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *From the Bronx to the Andean Steppes: Enhancing Field Conservation Techniques Through Zoo Research* with Dr. Patrick Thomas. How can you collect hair samples from Africa's big cats for DNA analysis? How can you determine whether there is a "downside" to live-shearing wild guanacos as a conservation strategy? How can you assess snow leopard populations by examining their "poop"? The answers to all these questions were gleaned, at least in part, through research in zoos. Dr. Pat Thomas will tell you about these and other examples of how research conducted in zoos can benefit wildlife conservation. Dr. Thomas has been with the Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) Bronx Zoo's Mammal Department since 1979. He is currently the general curator and is responsible for supervising the care and management of over 4,000 animals from nearly 500 species.

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

### February 2009

**Monday, February 2 – Deadline for the March - April Killdeer.**

**Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Members' Night* is a long-standing HAS tradition where extra time is allotted for chatting and getting to know one another better. We invite our members to share anything related to Audubon or the love of nature with the audience that evening. Some of us bring slides, still photos, or hobby collections, others bring mementos, some share stories or books. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable. Bill Reeves will present a brief program on the New York State Young Birders Club.

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

### March 2009

**Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *The Amphibian Extinction Crisis: Saving Frogs and Saving Ourselves* with Jennifer Pramuk, Ph.D. Nearly half of the 6,000 amphibian species around the world may be threatened with extinction. Since the 1980s, approximately 120 species have vanished from the wild. This crisis is growing. In Ecuador alone, each year more than 5 new amphibian species are discovered. Yet, overall numbers are declining faster than scientists can study and protect them and their fragile habitats. Tonight we will discuss the state of the world's amphibians and possible solutions to this global issue. Dr. Pramuk is Curator of Herpetology, Wildlife Conservation Society and oversees a collection of over 1,000 reptiles and amphibians. Her publications include 20 peer-reviewed articles including descriptions of 23 new species of frogs and toads and papers on the evolution, natural history, morphology, and captive husbandry of amphibians and reptiles.

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

### Birders' Box

The canoe trip to Constitution Marsh yielded many birds and fantastic fall foliage scenery. Within 20 seconds of the paddle a Bald Eagle treated us to a terrific view, and Belted Kingfishers were extremely cooperative, posing this way and that so closely we felt like we could reach out and touch them with our paddles. In addition, we enjoyed a very nice view of a perched Coopers Hawk. We also enjoyed flocks of Pine Siskins, an addition to our year's list, along with the usual assortment of fall birds. The highlight of the trip was flushing almost 100 Wood Ducks as we paddled past the wood. It was spectacular! At Hook Mt on October 5, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Coopers Hawks, Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, American Kestrel, Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Northern Harrier, and a fantastic view of a Pileated Woodpecker were seen. As might be expected, the November trips yielded fewer birds, but the trails and views were beautiful. At Rockefeller State Park the participants reported "tons of" Eastern Blue Birds, always a pleasure.

**Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 182.**



## 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.

### January 2009

**Saturday, January 3, 9:00 AM – North Shore Ponds and Harbors.** We will visit several ponds and harbors on the North Shore. See winter ducks as well as permanent resident land birds. Always a fun trip. Leader: Maria Kelly (631 673-0937).

**Directions:** Take 25A into the town of Huntington. Turn north onto Prime Ave adjacent to Heckscher Park. Park near the museum, either in the lot or on Prime Avenue. Meet in front of the Museum.

**Sunday, January 18, 10 AM – Bronx Zoo for Families.** The focus of the trip will be Tiger Mountain, snow leopards, and the African wild dogs. Then we will wander the rest of the zoo with a stop at the Café for lunch. Fees are as follows: Parking: \$10. Entry: Adults: \$14, Seniors: \$12, Children 3-12: \$10. Registration is a must. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Directions:** Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge to the Cross Bronx Expressway West to the Bronx River Parkway North to exit 7W (Fordham Road). Once on Fordham Road, the road will fork, bear right up the ramp. At the light, make a left onto Southern Blvd. Follow Southern Blvd to 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and Bronx Park South. The zoo is on the left.

### February 2009

**Sunday, February 22, 9:00 AM – Point Lookout.** Look for loons, grebes, and Harlequin ducks which are usually seen on Long Island only at Point Lookout. Leader: Blair Broughton (516 802-5356).

**Directions:** Take Meadowbrook Pkwy to the Loop Pkwy. At the end of the Loop Pkwy 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.

**Saturday, February 28, 9:00 AM – All Day Trip to Montauk Point and Various East End Spots.** Winter waterfowl abound, including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and 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 2009

**Sunday, March 8, 9:00 AM – Massapequa Preserve and Twin Lakes at Wantagh.** Many ducks up close. Green-winged Teals, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, American Widgeons, and Snipe often are seen. Some land birds as well. Leader: Blair Broughton (516 802-5356).

**Directions:** Take Southern State Pkwy to exit 30S, Broadway, Massapequa. Go south on Broadway to Euclid Ave. Turn left onto Euclid and go 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 there.

**Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15, 7:00 PM – Wick's Farm Woodcock Watch.** Each evening at 7:00 PM Stella Miller will be near the building opposite White Post Farm's parking area on Pulaski Road to guide birders into the area of Wick's Farm where Woodcocks have been seen displaying around Mid-March. The displays occur at dusk. Bring a flashlight to light your way back to the road. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Directions:** From the east, take Pulaski Road west passed Oakwood Road in Huntington. From the west, take Woodbury Road toward Huntington. When Woodbury Road veers to the left after the Cold Spring Harbor RR Station stay straight. That becomes Pulaski Road. White Post Farms is about 1/4 mile from there.



# killdeer

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

January - February 2009

Forwarding Service Requested

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



Printed on recycled paper.



## From the Board of Directors

- Bill Reeves represented HAS at the annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association in Rochester, NY, September 19 - 21, 2008.
- Sharon Brody attended a public meeting regarding a proposal to widen the mountain bike trails and pave park walkways in Trailview State Park. As a result, HAS sent a letter to Governor Paterson and other elected officials to express our opposition over the proposal because it would minimize the natural experience of the Park; it would be disruptive to the natural habitat which provides important protection to birds and animals; it would serve to create dangers for those merely hiking, walking, or bird watching, as they would then have to dodge speeding bicyclists, and pay more attention to the bicyclists than to the natural surroundings; and since there is so little truly “green” space left in Nassau County it would seem a callous disregard of the little natural heritage which remains.
- Audubon Adventure kits were provided to three teachers at the Oakwood Primary Center in Huntington.
- Ginger Mahoney has succeeded Simone Da Ros as recording secretary. Thank you Simone for all your diligent work over the last year. Your time and effort in keeping an

accurate record of our board meetings is greatly appreciated. It is no easy task.

- HAS has joined the New York State Young Birders Club as a Partner Organization. As a Partner we have the opportunity to mentor young birders, conduct field trips, and assist with publicity and the recruitment of both members and volunteers.

## You're Invited to Members' Night

Bill Reeves, HAS board member, will present a brief program on the New York State Young Birders Club. Huntington Audubon is a proud partner of the NYSYBC and one of our main goals this year is to reach out to younger members.



Members' Night traditionally 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 that evening. Some of us have slides, photos, hobby collections, or mementos; others share stories and books. Or just come and share the camaraderie of like-minded people. Please join us and participate in whatever way makes you comfortable.

As a special thank you to our loyal members, we will be serving pizza, along with other delicious snacks and holding a special free raffle! Please join us for this fun, social evening!