

The Huntington Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

March - April 2008

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Birdathon 2008

Help Us Meet Our Goal Of \$7,000!



It is not too early to start thinking about this year's **BIRDATHON**. Once again, Huntington Audubon will be holding its annual Birdathon at Alley Pond Park, Forest Park, and Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The event runs from 6:45 AM until approximately 6:00 in the evening. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers, in fact, last year our chapter raised \$5,000, twice as much as in the past, thanks to support from our members and friends. This year we have set **\$7,000** as our goal. Can we do it? With your help, yes!

Participants seek pledges - either a flat donation or a set amount per species of bird identified. (We usually see 100+.) On the Big Day we diligently search for as many species as possible and record all we see. **Imagine how successful Birdathon 2007 could be if each member donated a minimum of just \$5.00.** This support is crucial to our chapter.

Please consider joining the HAS team on **May 18th**. Join us for all or part of the day. Bring a friend or family member. **Ask your friends to sponsor you!!!** E-mail Stella Miller at trickiwoo63@yahoo.com for sponsor sheets. If you cannot participate, please send a donation in support of Birdathon to **Huntington Audubon, PO Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743**, sponsor a team member or donate at our March, April, and May monthly meetings. **Help raise donations to support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter and assist in sustaining the important work of environmental education and stewardship.**

Who Cooks for You All?



It may be putting the cart before the horse, but we do have the perfect title for the first ever HAS cookbook! Now we just need your recipes. Please submit one or two of your BEST to **Stella Miller c/o**

Huntington Audubon, PO Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743 or email to trickiwoo63@yahoo.com **before the end of June 2008**. Please designate what category your recipe will go into (for example: dessert, chicken, beef, casseroles, appetizers, etc). There will be a chapter for non-humans so feel free to include any suitable recipes for feathered friends and four-legged critters!

Our chapter has a long-standing reputation for providing excellent refreshments at membership meetings. It's no secret that there are many great cooks and bakers among us. Let's compile our favorite recipes into a cookbook for all to enjoy. Thanks!

From the Board of Directors

- A donation of \$5,000 to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center was approved.
- Our third annual **Garage Sale** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 14**. This has been a very successful fundraiser for our chapter. Remember, your trash is some else's treasure! Location and drop-off details will be in the next issue of the *Killdeer*.



Don't forget - Due to a scheduling conflict, the April Membership Meeting will be held on THURSDAY, April 10.

March Program

Wednesday, March 12
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

Birding by Impression with Kevin Karlson

This program highlights a new and exciting approach to field identification, Birding by Impression, and how it specifically relates to shorebirds. This approach focuses initially on impressions of non-changeable field characters of size, shape and behavior/body language to form a fast, yet surprisingly effective picture of every bird seen. Throughout the program, Kevin shares the stunning beauty and incredible migratory journeys of shorebirds using photos that capture the essence of these global travelers. Kevin is a co-author of an innovative book called *The Shorebird Guide* with Michael O'Brien and Richard Crossley.

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.

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Rare Bird Alert	(212) 979-3070
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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.
 E-mail us at **has@huntingtonaudubon.org**.

**Featured Volunteers - Dave & Sue Taylor
by Alice Del Bosco**

What has made Huntington Audubon the outstanding chapter it is? It has always been due to its dedicated volunteers - the ones you see highlighted each month in the *Killdeer*. Unfortunately, when many of them have retired they have gone elsewhere in search of the woods and fields Long Island once offered.

The latest members to fit that description are Dave and Sue Taylor who are in the process of building a new home in New Hampshire, near their grandchild, of course.

I don't know where to begin to enumerate all the accomplishments of Dave and Sue through the years. They have been such an important part of HAS and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. I remember back to the very first days of creating programs for the TRS. Sue was part of a committee sitting around the living room of the Sanctuary's historical white house designing games and activities for the kids. She developed lesson plans for years to deliver our message to young children until we were able to afford a staff to do that.

Meanwhile, Dave served his term as the president of the TRS Board of Directors and for a long time was the Buildings and Grounds chair. He organized great work party days ending with a pot luck meal sitting around the big wood stove. The heat was courtesy of all the afternoons and Saturdays Dave spent taking down dangerous tress and cutting them up for firewood.

Dave and Tom Caggiano rounded up HAS members to build a pond on the Sanctuary grounds. A Birdseed Sale Day would not have been complete without Dave on the truck and Sue manning a table. HAS had one of its greatest attendances ever on the Sunday the Taylors hosted as afternoon picnic at their beach for our members.

More recently, they have been for years been serving on the Town Environment and Open Space committee and the Conservation Board representing Huntington Audubon and serving as park stewards.

To say that we will sorely miss them is the understatement of the day.



Visit us on the web
www.huntingtonaudubon.org

How Birding Became My Great Hobby by Vinnie Pellegrino, Age 15



At the age of 15, it is amazing to me that just two years ago I could see a bird and look away without any interest, not thinking twice about it. Now I have my camera, binoculars, field guide, and equipment ready at hand for anything moving around in the brush - an amazing transition from a normal, crazy kid to an interested-in-nature young adult.

My birding all started two years ago when I had that "green thumb" and planted all sorts of flowers and shrubs around my yard along with many other yards. I planted what looked nice and flowers that appealed to me. Then toward the end of the summer, I glimpsed over to my next door neighbor's yard and noticed a small, little, yellow, canary-like bird sitting on top of a purple coneflower. It looked like it was extracting seeds. I looked at it in astonishment and simply said I want that bird in my garden!

So I researched the best I could for that bird and other birds, and what I could do to attract them. The purple coneflower was my favorite and since I saw that mystery bird on top of it, I immediately planted a whole assortment of them scattered around the yard. Sure enough, the next summer I got two goldfinches.

This event sparked an adventure I would soon be crazy for. Just with this little bird, I got interested in learning more about birds. I put up feeders to attract a whole array of birds. I took a stroll to a near by park, watching and counting all the birds I saw. Now birding everyday I possibly can, traveling around to parks and preserves, trying to get my life list up to an expert level, I have this passion for these interesting creatures that fascinate me so dearly. I must say this is the greatest hobby with excitement always stirring about, not knowing what I'm going to see. I am still an amateur birder, but I will soon become an expert. I hope my hobby will lead me to the path of becoming an ornithologist or biologist with this craving passion for animals and nature.

The 108th Christmas Bird Count by Charlotte Miska

Saturday, December 22, 2007 dawned cloudy and dreary. I even saw a few snow flurries when I left my home in Oyster Bay to meet other members of my count team in Lloyd Harbor, area 6 of the Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The Northern Nassau Count is one of thousands of counts that took place in the Western Hemisphere between December 14 and January 5. Over 50,000 people participate each year to compile the longest running database in ornithology.

HAS along with North Shore Audubon counts Northern Nassau which covers the territory from Manhasset Bay to Lloyd Harbor, Long Island Sound to Hicksville. This year a total of 35,105 individual birds comprising 114 species were counted and 241 hours were logged by the 57 counters. This is considerably higher than last years 23,454 individuals and 98 species. Highlights included Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, Barrow's Goldeneye, Snowy Owl, Selasphorus species hummingbird, and Bohemian Waxwing. Canada Goose was once again the most populous with 13,747. Common Grackle was second at 3,005.

After a rewarding day in the field, the counters met at 5:00 PM at the Bill Paterson Nature Center in Muttontown Preserve to share their adventures, enjoy a hearty supper, and compile the statistics. North Shore and HAS alternate providing the food and this year HAS once again put on a delicious spread. Thank you to everyone who helped to set up the room, provided the food and beverages, and stayed to clean up. Special thanks to Ginger and Dan Mahoney who coordinated the food and supplies.

Mary Normandia of North Shore welcomed the counters and thanked HAS for providing the food. The food was so good, Mary commented, that NSA would like to hire us to provide the food for them next year! She went through the checklist and each team reported their counts. Mary is responsible for submitting the results to National Audubon. You can view the results of the 108th CBC as they become available online at www.audubon.org.

The CBC is the largest citizen science project in the world. It is a great way to escape the hectic pace of the holidays, enjoy nature and the company of like-minded people, and have some fun. Consider joining us next December to get involved in an international research project. Act locally to make a global difference.



**Schedule
Change**

April Program
THURSDAY, April 10
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

Raptors of LI - Live Animal Presentation

Please join us tonight for an interactive, fun filled evening with live birds of prey! Here's your chance to meet some live hawks, owls, and falcons that live right in your own backyard. Test your skill in identifying birds of prey in flight and then learn about their unique adaptations while getting to see them up-close. *Volunteers for Wildlife* is a local wildlife rehabilitation clinic dedicated to treating and releasing injured wildlife along with conducting educational programs.

Up-Country by Bill McAneny



This is the fifth in a series of articles describing the pleasures of life among the Finger Lakes. We live just north of the border between Seneca and Tompkins Counties. Our street is the county line. Shirley and I moved here

from Huntington seven years ago.

Back in 1960 when Huntington folks were talking about forming a chapter of National Audubon, I was a lone holdout. I was familiar with the famous Baldwin Bird Club and used to travel across the island with John Taylor and J.J. Frey and sometimes with Barbara White to attend their meetings. What interesting members they had. The best known was Edwin Way Teale who wrote the great series of traveling with the seasons and describing the natural wonders he encountered with his wife, Nellie. Of local fame was George Peters who wrote about the biggest trees on Long Island and about his adventures collecting a rock from the highest point in each state of the union. There was the bird illustrator, Neil Ward, who did the drawings for John Bull's *Birds of New York*, and the wildlife photographer Adrian Dignan, who was my inspiration. Top-notch birders Manny Levine and Dick Sloss and John Elliot led field trips and demonstrated skills and dedication worthy of emulation. Manny Levine may still be a familiar name to you as he edited the long-awaited up-date of John Bull's book. Last but not least of those I remember was the renowned bird artist from Babylon, Don Eckelberry.

With heroes such as these, I was convinced that all we needed in Huntington was a bird club, not an Audubon chapter. I attended one of the organization meetings and made my point and convinced those present that bird club was the way to go.

Little did I reckon with Janice Thiel. She delighted in telling me that she had called another meeting, this time without me, and everyone now agreed with her that there should be a real live Audubon presence in Huntington. The main difference was that the fledgling organization would address conservation issues as well as bird finding. I didn't even know what conservation issues were until Betty Allen undertook to bring me out of the dark ages and into the light. I have been addressing conservation issues ever since.

On Long Island, Shirley and I were members of The Nature Conservancy, and when we moved upstate, we continued our membership, but with the Western NY chapter in Rochester. Shortly after our move, we read about a remarkable acquisition of a glacial fen with kettle hole, eskers, and the works. We called the TNC director and said we lived a few miles away and how could we

help. He told us they needed a trail around the wet areas and we could clear it. It was pretty amazing. He was entrusting a fragile environment to two strangers from Long Island, of all places! Have chain saw, will desecrate.

We cleared the trail, met the neighbors, saw a nest of Coopers Hawks, watched the orchids bloom, and helped build a boardwalk and viewing platform. If you can find Malloryville, you can inspect our handiwork.

Then we discovered a local group that preserved land much like TNC does. The Finger Lakes Land Trust is based in downtown Ithaca so it is much closer to home. Their projects tend to be closer to us and thus are easier to visit. They have preserved all sorts of terrain that is fascinating to flatlanders like us. There are creeks with waterfalls, rolling farmland reverting to nature, freshwater swamps, and a hill that is home to timber rattlesnakes. This is the essence of the up-country, and it is exhilarating.

Even nearer to home is the Cayuga Nature Center, only four miles down the road towards Ithaca. The programs are similar to those at the TR Sanctuary, but the property is much larger, having once been a farm. They do sugaring, create compost for sale to folks like us, conduct hikes and cross-country skiing, and maintain a butterfly garden. With the help of high school students, they built a four-story tall rustic observation tower. HAS members, the Caggianos, have climbed to the top with us.

Not too far away, near Malloryville in fact, is another nature center. Can't have enough nature centers! This one, Lime Hollow Nature Center, is in a big new log cabin next to a trout stream on a large piece of land. They claim to have ten miles of trails through woods and fields. The director is a retired army officer with lots of ideas and lots of energy, a good combination. He loves his job.

It is encouraging to see so much activity in land preservation. There are miles of open space nearby, yet people see the need to take action now to save the best places. You may recall, I served on Huntington's Environmental Open Space Acquisition committee to preserve the last remnants of undeveloped land in the town. I still receive the minutes of the meetings from that super chairperson, Joy Squires. My sympathy often goes out to those dedicated to the process, because they work so hard and acquire so little. There is little to acquire and it is so expensive. In almost ten years, they have obtained title to a little over 200 acres. In the up-country, a typical farm is perhaps 200 acres, and there are lots of farms. Land runs around \$2000 an acre. What would L.I. look like if there had been widespread support for land acquisition when the price was \$2000 an acre? What will the up-country look like if we fail to act now? (I like to cite Long Island as a bad example of all-consuming

Up-Country (Continued)

sprawl. Sorry, but it does open people’s eyes.)

On the other hand, 200 acres in Huntington is great, even if it is in relatively small parcels. Added to the existing parks, it can provide numerous play areas, ball fields, picnic areas, and quiet spots. Raise a cheer for HAS members Alex McKay, Howard Boltson, Dave Taylor, and all those who over the years have had the foresight to see the value of open space and have actively participated in preserving it. Margo Myles represents the town government on the EOSPA committee. She deserves a special cheer for patience, persistence, and perseverance. Hurrah!

If you are a loyal reader of these columns, you will have noticed that I have tried to illuminate the similarities and the differences between L.I. and the up-country. Perhaps you like the differences, as we do. My advice is, give in to temptation and visit the Finger Lakes. You won’t be disappointed. And I haven’t even said a word about the wineries.

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. We welcome him back to the Killdeer.

Out on a Limb
by Alex McKay



Many will remember Francis Bacon’s standard school essay “Of Studies” and its observation that some books are to be tasted, others swallowed whole, and a selected few to be “chewed and digested.” Now that winter brings us time for armchair birding and contemplation, Sam

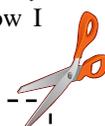
Keen’s *Sightings* is one of those slender volumes to be savored a chapter, paragraph, page, sentence, and, in places, a word at a time. “Namaste. Namaste. Namaste.” He clasps his hands in reverence, wonder, and awe.

Sightings is a sort of spiritual autobiography centering on encounters with birds and other wildlife. From a youthful transforming experience with the first sight of an Indigo Bunting, through friendship with an early teacher who became both mentor and soul-mate in pursuit of birds and days in nature, to the deaths of his mother and father and the insights into mortality provided by the cooing of Mourning Doves and the feasting of Turkey Vultures, Keen makes us aware of those “threshold moments” that “bring us to the realization that we are all members of the billion-tongued symphony of being.”

Keen is a professor of philosophy and religion as well as a birder, and the frequent references to what he terms “the sacred” take us beyond mere experience and observation into the transforming insight that “we dwell within a small circle of light surrounded by an immense mystery” that includes the miraculous song of the Wood Thrush, the sudden reappearance of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the “Lord God Bird,” and the community of birders who “help us to see, to feel, and to act in a reverential manner.” Birding, to Keen, is a holy calling.

But also pure joy. The complexity of bird brains, the music of the dawn chorus in spring, the excitement created by red-tails in love, “the commonwealth of sentient things” - all are part of the realization of the extraordinary significance of the ordinary. Birders know what it is when “swept away by the appearance of a previously unseen bird” to “enter an altered state and experience a momentary state of grace.”

In such moments, I know, we discover what Gerard Manly Hopkins found as “the dearest freshness deep down things,” or, what Keen finds, “the primal sacredness of life.” His *Sightings* should be sub-titled *A Field Guide to the Quest for the Sacred* instead of *Extraordinary Encounters with Ordinary Birds*. Either way, I know I shall refer to it often.



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 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.

March 2008

Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Shorebirds by Impression: A Different Approach to Field Identification with Kevin Karlson.* This program highlights a new and exciting approach to field identification, Birding by Impression, and how it specifically relates to shorebirds. This approach focuses initially on impressions of non-changeable field characters of size, shape, and behavior/body language to form a fast, yet surprisingly effective picture of every bird seen. Throughout the program, Kevin shares the stunning beauty and incredible migratory journeys of shorebirds using photos that capture the essence of these global travelers. Kevin Karlson has been a wildlife photographer for 26 years and active as a birder for 30 years. He has traveled from the wilds of the Alaskan Arctic to the rainforests of South America to photograph birds. As a noted wildlife photographer in North America, his work is widely published in numerous birding magazines and journals, as well as books, field guides, calendars, and CD-ROMs. Kevin is currently on the advisory board of *Wild Bird* magazine as well as a staff contributor of the column Birder's ID. He recently completed an innovative book called *The Shorebird Guide* with co-authors Michael O'Brien and Richard Crossley, released in April 2006.

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

Wednesday, March 31 – Deadline for the May-June-July Killdeer.

April 2008

NOTE DATE CHANGE.

THURSDAY, April 10, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Raptors of Long Island - A Live Animal Presentation.* Please join us tonight for an interactive, fun filled evening with live birds of prey.

Here's your chance to meet some live hawks, owls, and falcons that live right in your own backyard. Test your skill in identifying birds of prey in flight and then learn about their unique adaptations while getting to see them

up-close. Volunteers for Wildlife is a local wildlife rehabilitation clinic dedicated to treating and releasing injured wildlife along with conducting educational programs.

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

May 2008

Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Black Bear Rehabilitation,* Tracy Leaver of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge Woodlands Wildlife Refuge began rehabilitating black bears in 1995. During the last 13 years, 25 bears have been treated with 23 successful releases, 1 euthanasia, and 1 in permanent care. This rehabilitation program has progressed by incorporating some, but ignoring other, accepted methods. Please join us for this fascinating evening for a discussion on black bear rehabilitation as we discover how and why it has been so successful in New Jersey and how Woodlands Wildlife Refuges methods are a model for black bear rehabilitation in other parts of the country. Tracy Leaver is the founder and director of Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, Inc., a charity dedicated to the care and release of orphaned and injured wildlife since 1986.

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

Birders' Box

On the trip to Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge the following birds were seen: Great Blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, Canada Geese, Rufous-sided Towhee, Cardinal, Tufted Titmice, Chickadee, Blue Jay, Goldfinch, Black Duck, Mallard, and Junco. At Connetquot State Park Ruddy Duck, Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Merganser, and Canvasback were added.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 17.





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.

March 2008

Sunday, March 2, 9:00 AM – Target Rock NWR. Within the 80 acres are various habitats with a 1-mile trail that goes from the forest to the beach at Huntington Bay. We should see birds that spend the winter in the various habitats. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: From Route 25A in Huntington Village head north on West Neck Road towards Caumsett State Park. Continue past the park and the road bends to the left (north) until you reach Target Rock. Must pay modest fee to enter the Refuge.

Monday, March 10 through Sunday, March 16, 7:00 PM – Wick's Farm Woodcock Watch. Each evening Dick Furman 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 are usually seen displaying around mid-March. The displays occur at dusk. Bring a flashlight to light your way back to the road. Leader: Dick Furman (631-692-7356).

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 ¼ mile from there.

Saturday, March 15, 9:30 AM – Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge. Back by popular demand! Join us as we bid adieu for the season to the tame chickadees at Morton NWR. We will provide birdseed. You are almost guaranteed to have Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches feeding from your hands while we explore the trails of this lovely refuge. Children will love this experience and so will adults. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

Directions: Take Sunrise Hwy (27) east past Shinnecock Canal. Look for North Sea and Noyack sign and bear left on CR52. Stay on CR52, then turn left at light onto CR38. After 1.4 miles on CR38, turn right onto Noyack Road. After 5 miles, turn left into refuge. Parking fee.

Sunday, March 30, 9:00 AM – Shu Swamp Nature Preserve, TR Sanctuary, and Sagamore Hill. Early spring walk in three short but very different habitats that are near each other. We'll start at Shu Swamp and will search for Wood Ducks and spring visitors. Skunk cabbage and spring ephemerals should be blooming. We will continue on to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay to check the feeders and take a short hike on the trails. Finally at Sagamore Hill, we'll walk the trail from the Old Orchard museum down to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor. Afterwards, you can visit the museum or tour Sagamore Hill. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: To Shu Swamp - From 25A, take 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left on to Lexington Ave. then another left on to West Shore Road. Directly after Mill Pond (on the left), make a left turn to go up the hill on Mill Hill Road. Make a right on Beaverbrook Road, which will become Frost Mill Road. Shu Swamp will be on the left, just before a rail road trestle.

April 2008

Sunday, April 13, 10:00 AM – Hempstead Plains. Note later start time. Enjoy early blooming wild flowers on the prairie and possibly Ring-necked Pheasant. See the Birdfoot Violet, Nassau County's official flower. Learn about efforts to save this rare habitat. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: Meadowbrook Pkwy to exit M4. Follow signs to Coliseum and Charles Lindbergh Blvd. Turn right into NCC East Parking Area. See Hempstead Plains straight ahead at first intersection.

Saturday, April 19, 9:00 AM – Jones Beach, West End 2. Look for early migrants including Oystercatcher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Piping Plover, egrets, kinglets, and warblers. Leader: Bill Reeves (631-266-4309).

Directions: Take either the Meadowbrook Pkwy or Wantagh Pkwy to Ocean Pkwy. Follow signs for the Coast Guard Station at the West End of Jones Beach. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms.



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

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March - April 2008



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Field Trips (Continued)

Sunday, April 27, 9:00 AM – Greenwood Cemetery. A treasure-trove of famous monuments set among some of the best bird watching in the city. The must-see birds are the Monk Parakeets at the gatehouse. If time permits, we may go to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens for early migrants (and beautiful spring flowers). Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: Long Island Expressway westbound to the 48th Street exit to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway south to the Hamilton Avenue exit. Continue on Hamilton Avenue until it becomes Third Avenue and continue about eight blocks to 25th Street. Turn left at 25th Street and go two blocks. Cemetery entrance straight ahead at 5th Avenue and 25th Street.

May 2008

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 AM – Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Internationally known as a premier birding spot in the United States. Joint trip with Volunteers for Wildlife. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

Directions: Southern State Pkwy to Cross Bay Boulevard south, exit 17S, then head south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1¼ miles from the bridge. Turn right at traffic light, meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, May 4 at 9 AM and May 5–9 at 4:30 PM - Bobolink Watch at Stillwell Woods. Dick Furman will be conducting a Bobolink watch on Sunday morning and each weekday afternoon if it's not raining. Meet at the far end of the parking lot near the gate to the trails. Leader: Dick Furman (631-692-7356).

Directions: Jericho Tpke to South Woods Road in Syosset. Go north about 1½ miles. Opposite Syosset High School look on the right to the entrance to Stillwood Woods (in the front there are soccer fields). Drive around past the soccer fields to the end of the parking lot near the gate to the trails.

Save These Dates - Details in Next Issue.

Sunday, May 11 – Central Park.

Saturday, May 17 – Wolf Conservation Center and Ward Pond Ridge Reservation.

Sunday, May 18 – Birdathon.

Saturday, May 24 – Bashakill.

Saturday, June 7 – Garden City Bird Sanctuary.

Saturday June 28/Sunday June 29 – Rams Horn Livingston Sanctuary/Rheinstrom Hill Wildlife Sanctuary/Buttercup Farm Paddle - Hike and Birding Overnight Trip.