

The Huntington Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

March - April 2009

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Huntington Audubon Garage Sale

Our fourth annual **Garage Sale** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6th**. This has been a very successful fundraiser for our chapter. Remember, your trash is someone else's treasure! Look for location and drop-off details in the next issue of the *Killdeer*.



Volunteers Needed to Assist with Piping Plover Monitoring by Caroline Spilman, Long Island Bird Conservation Coordinator, Audubon New York

As the winter chill subsides, it is time to once again start preparing for the return of the Piping Plover to our Long Island beaches. While the calendar start of the official monitoring season is in April, preparations for the arrival of our endangered beach-nesting birds have already begun. In order to carry out the protective measures and monitoring efforts needed to ensure these birds have a safe nesting season, volunteers are needed to assist with conservation activities.

Help is needed with early season monitoring (April 1st – Memorial Day weekend) of beach-nesting bird activity at state parks across Long Island including Jones Beach, Caumsett, Gilgo, Robert Moses, Sunken Meadow, Orient Beach, and Montauk. Volunteer opportunities also include pre-fencing of traditional nesting areas at Jones Beach on March 29th and protection of nesting areas during large public events on Memorial Day weekend and Independence Day weekend, also at Jones Beach. For more information on how you can volunteer with these efforts, please contact Annie McIntyre at Annie.McIntyre@oprhp.state.ny.us or Carolyn Spilman at cspilman@audubon.org or 631-477-6456.

To learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities please visit http://ny.audubon.org/BirdSci_CoastalBirdConservation.html for updated information.

Birds and Wildlife Need You – Join Audubon's Action Network by Laura McCarthy, Grassroots Coordinator, Audubon New York

Audubon Action Alerts are a quick, easy way to get access to your lawmakers, local media, and inside information on issues impacting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. If you aren't already a part of our online action network, sign up today at www.audubonaction.org/newyork.

Action Alerts allow you to take action on issues of priority concern, both nationally and locally, by providing you with easy to send letters and automatically matching you to your specific federal and state lawmakers. Action Alerts are sent periodically on issues of national concern (from the grassroots office of the National Audubon Society) and on a statewide or local level (from Audubon New York, working closely with Chapters around the state). Please sign up today - the more people we can reach with this tool, the more successful we will be in our conservation efforts.

If you provide at least your city, state, and zip code when signing up, we will be able to send you alerts and invitations that affect you most directly. Don't worry - we will not inundate your inbox, your information is confidential and will not be used for other purposes, and you can unsubscribe anytime.

We know that lawmakers care about your views and opinions. As a constituent, you have a unique ability to convey your concerns to them. Helping is easy, won't take much time, and most importantly, will go a very long way in protecting our wildlife!

March Program
Wednesday, March 11
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

***Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge - An Urban
 National Park with Don Riepe***

Despite being altered, abused and next to the heavily populated boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, Jamaica Bay is home to many species of fish and wildlife. Over 330 species of birds have been recorded there along with over 100 species of finfish. This program includes photos documenting birds and other wildlife as well as resource management activities undertaken over the past 30 years. Don Riepe, recently retired from the National Park Service where he worked as a naturalist and manager of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

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 st Vice Pres. | Blair Broughton | 516-802-5356 |
| 2 nd 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.
 E-mail us at has@huntingtonaudubon.org.

**Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count
 by Brent Bomkamp**

On Saturday, the 45th annual Christmas Bird Count was conducted by the North Shore



December 20th, Northern Nassau Count was conducted by the Huntington and Audubon

Societies. This year 55 observers braved some rather undesirable conditions, with constant snowfall and temperatures that never climbed above 25 degrees. This certainly contributed to the below-average total of 94 species, well under last year's excellent count of 113. The count began at around 4:00 AM for some very brave souls and ended at 4:00 PM.

The majority of highlights were in terms of numbers. The count found record-high amounts of Brant with 650, Surf Scoter with 330, Long-tailed Duck with an incredible 2,171, Ruddy Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers with 35 and 17 respectively, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with 14 individuals sighted. The only truly unusual species was a single Pine Warbler found at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, although the Field Sparrow observed at Uplands Farm was certainly welcomed, especially considering the terrible decrease that species has been experiencing over the past several years. The Merlin and Redhead seen in the Cold Spring Harbor section are both representative of the expansion that these two species have been making northwards recently.

Decreases were far more common; this year's count of a mere six Cedar Waxwings is paltry, especially when considering that last year's total was 263! However, such dramatic changes in year-to-year populations are expected in nomadic species such as waxwings. This can also be seen with Purple Finch, which dropped from an excellent count of 27 last year, to a single individual this year. Although the snow did make for beautiful scenery, hopefully next year the weather won't be so atrocious so a more typical species count of over 100 can be attained.

Editor's Note: Started in 1900, Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count is the oldest continuous citizen science project. Counts are conducted in North and South America. In 2007, nearly 60,000 people participated in over 2,000 count areas. Data is used to determine patterns of increases or decreases in winter populations. You can view results of this count and previous years on National Audubon Society's website - www.audubon.org.

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.



Raptors/Methane Burners Conflict

by Stella Miller



HAS does not normally find itself at the forefront of a national campaign, but we do now. Early in November I was made aware of an issue concerning methane burner/raptor conflicts at landfills and I quickly brought it to the attention of Rob

Fergus from National Audubon Society. Rob posted the issue on his blog, spoke with various rehabbers across the US and he and I began to brainstorm with others on how this problem could be solved.

Landfills consist of a treeless landscape which attract rodents, a favorite food source of raptors. The height of the methane burners (or flares as they are called in the industry) are a perfect perch for raptors hunting for tasty rodents and other prey. Methane burners, unfortunately, usually have an igniter which causes a sudden flame that can scorch or even kill anything perched atop them. Some birds just happen to fly over the burner as the flame is igniting. Because landfills are very low-traffic areas, a very small percentage of these birds are ever found and treated, and most succumb painfully to their injuries.

Birds have been found in Texas, Illinois, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, and Oklahoma to name just a few states. Raptors are not the only victims. At some landfills bird skeletons, including songbirds, have been found littered around the burners. For the few birds that survive, rehabilitation is an extremely lengthy process as the singed feathers must grow out and be replaced by new ones. If a bird is freshly molted, this process will take a year.

The solution to this problem is a simple and environmentally friendly one: reclaim and recycle the methane. If this is not feasible, then spikes or other excluder devices on top of the burners should be installed. This will prevent the birds from landing and perching on these burners. In addition, there should be taller "T" perches provided outside the flame's reach, as the birds that are not aware of the spikes may still try and land on the stacks and will be burned on approach.

As you are probably aware, raptors are fully protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and as such, it is illegal to harm them. In September, Sweetbriar Nature Centre Center received a landfill burned American Kestrel for rehab. Since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is in charge of enforcing this law, I reached out to our local branch. They quickly responded and in January I met with FWS about the problem here on Long Island. It was a terrific meeting with FWS pledging to work on this issue with us. We are currently strategizing, creating a

presentation on the topic, and will shortly be meeting with landfill owners. In the meantime, Janine Bendickson of Sweetbriar has spoken to a local assemblyman who is concerned about this issue and has stated he will assist in any way he can.

I have had conference calls with the Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) people and have calls scheduled with the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and Rick Harness, a biologist who has been heavily involved in the powerline/raptor conflict issue. We are also reaching out to other organizations in order to spread awareness.

There is no quick and easy solution to this situation. There is no government oversight with regards to landfills and we still have a long way to go in order to solve this problem. A wonderful example of what can go right is happening in Wisconsin. Dianne Moeller, a wildlife rehabilitator, has been working to resolve this issue and has obtained a pledge from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to inspect every landfill in Wisconsin and work to implement the changes needed to protect these birds.

If you would like to do your part to assist in this campaign, please go to www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-our-raptors. Sign the petition and pass it on to as many people as you can. The more that the public is aware of the methane burner/raptor conflict, the more support we will have to back us up as we push for regulations and oversight that will help protect our magnificent birds of prey!

April Program

Wednesday, April 8
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

Climate Change: How, Why and What it Means for the Future with Dr. Edmond A. Mathez

This talk will present the scientific evidence for climate change, describe some of the possible impacts, and explore potential solutions. Dr. Mathez is curator, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the Museum of Natural History in New York City and is the author of the soon-to-be-published book, *Climate Change: The Science Behind Global Warming and our Energy Future*. Dr. Mathez's interest in climate change originated from his studies in support of the Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth, for which he served as the lead curator.

Out on a Limb by Alex Mckay



On November 4th voters in Huntington overwhelmingly approved the Environmental Open Space and Park Fund proposal which now provides an additional \$15 million for open space **acquisition, park improvements, neighborhood enhancements, and a “green initiative”** to help the Town reduce its carbon footprint. A little over a month later, on December 9, the Town Board adopted the comprehensive plan update presented in the document *Horizons 2020*. Together, these actions will guide preservation and planning in the Town for the next decade.

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Findings Statement for the update notes that the plan identifies initiatives to conserve land and water resources, including a green infrastructure agenda with enhanced protection and management of natural areas, wetlands, ground and surface waters, and air resources. A key finding is that “new programs, projects and development activity should balance and minimize impacts on the physical environment.” Preservation and enhancement of existing character will replace growth as the primary planning goal in the Town.

Horizons 2020 is a detailed and specific document that grew out of citizen input throughout the process from the formulation of a Vision Statement expressing the community’s aspirations through forums, interviews, a phone survey, and other communications. A 26-member Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) reviewed in detail the policy and strategy choices available to the Town. The final document was prepared by consultants from Wallace Roberts and Todd, economics Research Associates, and LSA Associates, Inc.

The plan is broad in scope and specific on policies and strategies. Its major sections discuss environmental resources and open space, community character, community facilities, land use, economic development, transportation, and housing. Of particular interest to Audubon members is the first of the above - environmental resources and open space, collectively the “green infrastructure” of the Town.

With sixty-two specific strategies to implement fourteen broad goals, this section is a blueprint for the Town to shift from an expansion to a management mode that will focus on stewardship and compatible use of its protected lands inventory. Strategies are detailed to protect water resources, wetlands, coastal areas, mature trees and tree canopy, and unique resources including biodiversity. Additional strategies focus on educational programs for environmental stewardship, the open space acquisition

program, open space in new developments, a greenway network, parks and recreation facilities, access to open space and recreation, and budgeting of resources to maintain the quality of parks and recreation facilities.

A sampling of specifics: enact vegetated buffer and setback requirements for riparian corridors, develop a townwide biodiversity inventory, encourage the use of green building construction principles, create a new public open space/recreation zoning category, prepare a Greenways and Trails Plan, and one that has already been accomplished, “continue the revenue stream of the Environmental Open Space/Bond Program which will expire in 2008.”

Horizons 2020 is available in local libraries and on line in pdf format - just Google “Horizons 2020.” I recommend perusing it in more detail than I can summarize here. Vision and horizons are one thing: action and implementation will be another. Stay informed. Stay tuned.

Birders' Box

The January 3 North Shore Ponds and Harbors trip started out on a cold, windy morning, with many ponds partially frozen. Yet at each stop we added a species or two. After seeing a Northern Pintail at the Spring St. Pond in Cold Spring Harbor we headed to St. John's Pond, always a good spot for ducks, but not that day, due to minimal open water. While watching Swans and Gadwalls there, Doug called out “Hawk over there in flight.” We switched our gaze to see a very large raptor flying along the ridge over Rte 108 then circling. “That doesn't look like a Redtail,” said one participant. Another viewer, a visitor from Peekskill, said it looked like an immature Bald Eagle to her. “I see them a lot along the Hudson River” she said.

As one viewer trained binos on the large bird, calling out field marks, two others checked them with two different field guides. Aha! We were in fact watching an immature Bald Eagle. Soon a Redtail flew near the Eagle. What a size difference we noted. Maybe there weren't many ducks there, but the bird of the day put on a show for us before flying out toward the harbor and out of sight. Our total count for the trip was 27 species including American Widgeon, Canvasbacks, several Redheads in Centerport, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Ducks, Buffleheads, many Hooded Mergansers, Coots but hardly any land birds. They must have been hiding sheltered from the wind.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 27.

Youth Outreach Committee
by Stella Miller



Huntington Audubon is proud to announce our first ever Youth Outreach Committee (YOC)! As president of HAS, one of my most pressing goals since day one has been to involve younger people in the organization and I am hoping this committee is just the beginning. The committee is still in its infancy, but our plans include reaching out to younger members of the community to involve them in HAS. In forming the group it was important to me that if we were to have a youth committee, it not be filled with older people trying to figure out what kids and young adults like or want. I wanted teens and young adults as advisors and chairs.

The committee consists of Brent Bomkamp, Vinny Pellegrino, Tricia Arend, Eric Powers, and me. Brent is 15 and a sophomore at Northport High School. Brent caught the birding bug at the tender age of 7 when he was taken on an HAS North Shore Ponds walk and has been a member ever since. Vinny is 16 and has been an avid birder since 2007. He too went on a winter pond walk and was hooked on HAS. He is a junior at Northport High. Tricia grew up and still lives on the South Shore of Long Island in Suffolk County. She has an interest in wildlife and is an avid writer. She is employed as a general assignment reporter and photographer for a local community newspaper. Eric Powers is a biologist running the Board Of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Outdoor Learning Lab at Caleb Smith State Park and owner of "Your Connection to Nature", an eco-tourism and nature education business. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, birding, walking the seashore, rock hounding, fossil hunting, plant care, animal handling, canoeing, wrestling with his nephew, yoga, and the latest/greatest electronics.

The YOC is currently working on a project called "Birds for Brains". This is based on a similar project in Minnesota which was pioneered by Mat Paulson. Birds for Brains will provide senior centers and nursing homes with handmade bird feeders, built by children (such as cub scouts and other youth groups). The Beth Abrahams Comprehensive Care Management in Amityville which is slated to open in March 2009 has signed up as the first recipient of the program. The first group of builders will consist of children from Cub Scout Group #313 in North Bellmore. This is a way to provide seniors with a sense of nature that may now be lacking in their lives, while giving children a worthwhile project to be involved in. We will keep you updated as to our progress.

We will also be meeting regularly to discuss how we can involve younger people with HAS. We have already discussed ideas pertaining to a more active promotion of Audubon Adventures in grade schools along with promoting our field trips and programs to young adults. If anyone has ideas for us, or knows a teen or young adult who would be an asset to the committee, please reach out to me.

We are very excited about the youth outreach committee since it is so important that we engage more young people in conservation. Children who are passionate about the outdoors have a sense of purpose and accomplishment that may help focus them and keep them out of trouble. We must all take an active role in educating and introducing children to the outdoors for the future of conservation lies in the hands and hearts of our youth.



Visit us on the web
www.huntingtonaudubon.org



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.

March 2009

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge - An Urban National Park with Don Riepe* Despite being altered, abused, and next to the heavily populated boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, Jamaica Bay is home to many species of fish and wildlife. Over 330 species of birds have been recorded there along with over 100 species of finfish. The program includes photos documenting birds and other wildlife as well as resource management activities undertaken over the past 30 years and some of the many environmental issues surrounding Jamaica Bay. Don Riepe has been the NY Chapter Director and has led tours for the American Littoral Society for the past 20 years and is now employed as the “Jamaica Bay Guardian”. He recently retired from the National Park Service where he worked as a naturalist and manager of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Don has been involved in managing raptors (Ospreys, Peregrines, Barn Owls), butterflies and moths, and grassland birds and is a member of the Jamaica Bay Task Force.

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

April 2009

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Climate Change: How, Why and What it Means for the Future with Dr. Edmond A. Mathez.* This talk will present the scientific evidence for climate change, describe some of the possible impacts, and explore potential solutions. Dr. Mathez is curator, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the Museum of Natural History in New York City and is the author of the soon-to-be-published book, *Climate Change: The Science Behind Global Warming and our Energy Future.*

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Wednesday, April 1 – Deadline for the May - June Killdeer.

May 2009

Wednesday, May 13, 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 five 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, May 20, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

-
- **Save these dates for future field trips.**
 - **Details will be in the next issue.**
 - **Sunday, May 3 - Doodletown and Iona Island National Estuarine Sanctuary**
 - **Saturday, May 9 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge**
 - **Sunday, May 10 - Central Park**
 - **Saturday, May 16 - Fuchs Pond Preserve**
 - **Saturday, May 23/Sunday May 24 - Buttercup Farm Hike/Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary Paddle/Bashakill Wildlife Management Area Birding Overnight Trip**
 - **Sunday, June 7 - Canoe Trip in Constitution Marsh, Cold Spring, NY**
-



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.

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.

Saturday, March 29, 8:30 AM – Shu Swamp Nature Preserve, TR Sanctuary and Sagamore Hill - An early spring walk in three small, but different habitats of close proximity in northern Oyster Bay. Starting at Shu Swamp we will search for Wood Ducks and Rusty Blackbirds. A short stop at the TRS should turn up lots of birds at the feeding station as well as resident Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. At Sagamore Hill, we'll walk the trail from the Old Orchard Museum to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor. 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 2009

Saturday April 4, 9:00 AM – Jones Beach Coast Guard Station – Look for early spring migrants including Oystercatcher, Black-crowned Night Heron, egrets, and warblers. Leader: Sharon Brody (516 433-5590).

Directions: Take either Meadowbrook 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 rest rooms.

Sunday April 19, 9:00 AM, Greenwood Cemetery and Prospect Park Audubon Center, Brooklyn – Historic Greenwood Cemetery is a wonderful place that combines wonderful scenery and some of the best bird-watching in the city. The must-see birds are the Monk Parakeets, a naturalized escapee, at the gatehouse. Prospect Park is a designated Important Bird Area where over 240 species of birds have been reported. Leader: Blair Broughton (516 802-5356).

Directions: Long Island Expressway westbound to the 48th St exit to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway south to the Hamilton Ave exit. Continue on Hamilton Ave until it becomes Third Ave and continue about 8 blocks to 25th St. Turn left at 25th St and go two blocks. Cemetery entrance straight ahead at 5th Ave and 25th St.

Sunday April 26, 8:00 AM – Hempstead Lake State Park. An Important Bird Area that supports large numbers of flycatchers, warblers, tanagers, and a mix of other birds from mid April to late May. Leaders: Stella Miller (516-695-0763) and Brent Bomkamp. Please note there is a \$6 per car State Park fee.

Directions: Southern State Parkway west to Exit 18 (Eagle Avenue) and proceed south to the 2nd parking lot.



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

March - April 2009



Printed on recycled paper.

Save the Calverton Grasslands by Stella Miller

Enterprise Park at Calverton (EPCAL) is a 2,900 acre, mostly undeveloped, parcel of land in western Riverhead. Current development proposals, including the largest development proposal ever on the East End, threaten 800 acres of rare grassland habitat as well as portions of the LI Pine Barrens, Suffolk County Special Groundwater Protection Area, the Peconic Estuary watershed, and the LI Sound watershed. Although once used as a Navy test site, the EPCAL location is actually host to a wide variety of rare and protected native species. The list includes: NYS listed Endangered Short Eared Owls and Eastern Tiger Salamanders, and NYS Species of special concern Grasshopper Sparrow and Northern Harriers among others.

The Coalition for Open Space at EPCAL consists of a variety of civic and environmental organizations, including HAS, that are concerned about current threats to the amazing natural resources located within the EPCAL site, and to our regional quality of life. Each group/organization has its own mission and specific concerns that it is focused on, and together we work to forward our goals of protecting natural space within EPCAL. We are fighting to ensure that the significant natural resources present are afforded the

protection they deserve. We work to ensure that communities and citizens throughout the region continue to enjoy the clean air, limited traffic issues, clean water, and high level of services they have today. Please visit http://www.calvertongrasslands.org/EPCAL_Coalition.html to see how you can help!

Local Progress

The media continues to report on “Green” news. The February 2009 issue of *Car & Travel*, a AAA publication, has a short article detailing what New York State Parks and municipalities are doing to reduce gas use. It states that the NY Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation now operates one of the largest clean air fleets in the state. In Suffolk, Smithtown was praised for replacing diesel garbage trucks with 22 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles. Furthermore Nassau County has “the largest municipal fleet of CNG (330) public buses outside of California as well as 90 other CNG, electric, hybrid, electric and ethanol flex-fuel vehicles.” It also cited the Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition’s estimate that Long Island reduced its gasoline consumption in 2007 by 10 million gallons.

It’s nice to see LI climbing aboard the Green bandwagon.