

The Huntington Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

May - June - July 2008

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Huntington Audubon Garage Sale

Here is your opportunity to clean out the closets and organize the basement while supporting Huntington Audubon Society. On **Saturday, June 14th** we will hold **our third annual garage sale** at 173 West Pulaski Road, Huntington Station as a fundraiser for our chapter and the many programs we provide for our community. We will be accepting donations of small appliances, books, dishware, small furniture, sports equipment, clothing in good condition, or anything you think can be used by someone else. **We will accept donations from Friday June 6th through Wednesday June 11th.** Please call Cathy Fitts at (631) 427-8623 or Ginger Mahoney at (516) 922-4599 for drop-off times and directions. Remember, your trash is some else's treasure! (Rain date is Sunday, June 15th.)

Fiddleheads American Fish House & Grill's Benefit for the Birds!



Join us Wednesday, July 16th at Fiddleheads American Fish House & Grill in Oyster Bay to benefit the Huntington Audubon Society. Come in for dinner and mention the Huntington Audubon Society and Fiddleheads will donate 15% (pre-tax) of your bill back to HAS!

Fiddleheads Restaurant is a colorful, casual fine restaurant which stresses seafood but does so with an imaginative new American accent. *Newsday* says, "American Fish House & Grill enters the top tier of locals, with splashingly fresh and often refreshing food prepared with skill and imagination."

We look forward to seeing you at Fiddleheads on July 16th for an evening of fine dining. Don't forget to mention Huntington Audubon and you can be sure that not only will you enjoy a superb meal, you will help support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter and assist in sustaining the important work of environmental education and stewardship.

HAS Birdathon 2008

Help Us Meet Our Goal and You Can Be a Winner!



Just a reminder, Huntington Audubon will be holding our annual Birdathon at Alley Pond Park, Forest Park, and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on **Sunday, May 18th**. The event runs from 6:45 AM until 6:00 PM and is one of our biggest fundraisers. This year we have set \$7,000 as our goal. Can we do it? With your help, yes we can!

Participants seek sponsors for this Big Day when we diligently search for and record as many species as possible. (We usually see 100+ species.) We cover approximately 10 miles in distance. Please consider joining the HAS Birdathon team on this day. Join us for all or part of the day. Bring a friend or family member. Ask your friends to sponsor you! If you cannot participate, please send in a donation in support of Birdathon, or sponsor a team member.

Sponsor a Birdathon team member and you will be eligible to win one of the following prizes:

- A donation of \$50 and above - \$500 cash
- \$25 to \$49 - a \$150 gift certificate to Fiddleheads Restaurant in Oyster Bay
- Under \$25 - a Bushnell Powerview 7x35 binocular, donated by Berger Brothers.

The drawing will be held on June 11, 2008 at our Membership Meeting.

This support is crucial to our chapter. Help raise donations to support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter and assist in sustaining the important work of environmental education and stewardship.

May Program

Wednesday, May 14
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

Black Bear Rehabilitation

Tracy Leaver of 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 Refuge's 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.

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

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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**.

Board Supports Cool Cities Program

At the March 19 meeting of the Huntington Audubon Board of Directors, a motion was passed to lend our name in support of the Sierra Club's program called Cool Cities. Sierra is organizing a campaign asking the town of Huntington to participate in the Cool Cities program. Under that program the cities are asked to pledge to reduce their carbon emissions and meet the standards of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. That agreement is analogous to the Kyoto Protocol. It asks municipalities to pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. The Cool Cities website reports 961 US cities as already participating in the program as of the date of writing this article. Other local New York State communities in the process of signing on include Babylon, Brookhaven, Carmel, and Mamaroneck. It is one way to support efforts to reduce global warming locally. It is understood that lending our name in support of the Cool Cities program does not mean we would support every individual aspect of the changes proposed, but do endorse the general concept. The website **<http://coolcities.us>** has extensive, interesting details related to the program and is well worth visiting.

**Coming Soon**

by Alice Del Bosco

A not to be misplaced, very attractive, most informative newcomer - the new newsletter from Audubon New York, our best ever! It replaces the old newsprint *Advocate* which has been non-existent for quite a while due to budget restraints. Do take the time to read, not just browse, the whole issue. From the bio of our new executive director on page 3, to the recognition of Huntington Audubon on page 12, you will be astonished at the accomplishments of Audubon New York's State office. Note the emphasis on grassland birds, including those on Long Island and the presence of a new staff member, Carolyn Spilman, to assist the seven Audubon chapters on Long Island with issues from cats to windmills. Our State Audubon office ranks among National Audubon's best, if not THE best, in the country.



Visit us on the web

www.huntingtonaudubon.org

**Successful Preservation
by Pat Aitken**



The Nassau County Legislature voted unanimously on Monday, February 25, 2008 to buy most of the 31-acre Smithers Estate in Mill Neck for \$7.8 million and preserve it as open space. This important acquisition creates a continuous preserve all the way to the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge, helping to protect water quality so critical to the health of the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor estuary system. The Smithers estate is within a state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Area and contains two ponds, as well as many of the fresh-water springs that supply Shu Swamp, Beaver Dam, Mill Neck Creek and on into Oyster Bay. The NY State Department of Environmental Protection has documented 74 species of birds breeding in the area, and as all local birders know, this area is a safe haven for migrating birds. It also provides critical habitat for numerous fish species, such as Brook Trout and the American Brook Lamprey.

The successful preservation of this property was truly a collaborative effort by a group of local environmental organizations (such as Friends of the Bay, North Shore Land Alliance, Huntington Audubon Society, North Shore Audubon Society, TR Sanctuary, Citizen Campaign for the Environment, and Trout Unlimited) who all worked to get the word out that the public needed to let their legislators know how strongly they felt that this property, ranked as the #1 priority for acquisition by the Bond Act Advisory Committee, be preserved.

The real message of this story is that by working together, local environmental groups made it easy for the politicians to say "yes". By providing them with the scientific justification for the purchase, as well as an emotional and heartfelt appeal, we helped them carry out the wishes of the 77% of Nassau County voters who supported the Bond Act and the preservation of important open spaces for the Long Island environment.

**Wicks Farm Trails
by Catherine Fitts**

It's that time again - time for the spring clean-up at Wicks Farm. Although the stewardship agreement between Suffolk County Parks Department and Huntington Audubon Society (HAS) has expired and negotiations are under way for a new deal, the trails remain open at the Wicks Farm Nature Preserve. The annual Woodcock Watch was held in early March and Wicks Farm had its Woodcocks calling, flying, and displaying their mating ritual. If you have not seen it yet, there is always next year.

Thanks to all the volunteers that have sweated to clear the areas around the bird houses and the barn. HAS is

currently appealing to its members for an increase in the number of volunteers. The steady crew of four is anxious to train new volunteers in trail maintenance. There is always hope that Eastern Bluebirds will not only look, but stay and nest in the boxes. Some board members have volunteered to maintain an on-going bird census, including nesting species.

HAS now has the use of a truck to transport the mower and invested in ramps to quickly load and unload mower. If anyone is willing to help, please contact Cathy Fitts, (631-427-8623) or Blair Broughton (516-802-5356) or just show up at any of the Wicks Farm work days.

The spring clean-up work days are as follows:

- Saturday, May 10 9:00 AM – 12 Noon
- Sunday, May 25 1:00 – 4:00 PM
- Sunday, June 8 1:00 – 4:00 PM
- Saturday, June 21 9:00 AM – 12 Noon.

Hope to see you there.



June Program
Wednesday, June 11
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

Garden City Bird Sanctuary

From a neglected and trash filled stormwater basin, a community nature preserve is flourishing. The vision statement adopted by the grass roots community group was simply "to establish a local greenspace for the demonstration of environmental stewardship through education and volunteer community services." The concept developed into The Garden City Bird Sanctuary - a protected nine-acre nature refuge at a County storm water basin (sump) next to a local playground. Please join Rob Alvey, Director of the Garden City Bird Sanctuary and a professional geologist, as he discusses how this beautiful sanctuary came to be and takes us on a visual tour.

A field trip to the sanctuary is scheduled for June 7. See Field Trips page for details.

Up-Country by Bill McAneny



This is the sixth 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.

The time has come to speak of invasives. My definition of an “invasive” is a plant or animal you don’t want in your yard but find impossible to keep out, and almost impossible to eradicate once it moves in. (So, you have relatives like that?)

Here in the up-country, we like to think we are so far from “civilization” that we have no invasives other than summer tourists. Fortunately, the tourists leave at some point. Unfortunately, we have some flora and fauna that have crept in uninvited and sometimes invited and they don’t leave. Even when greatly abused, maligned, and persecuted, they don’t leave.

First of all, what we have, you have too. Garlic mustard is rampant. Oriental bittersweet is here, in small numbers but growing. We have Russian olive, multiflora rose, and creeping Charlie. We have a big, big problem with Japanese knotweed and I know it is widespread on Long Island. Bush honeysuckle grows everywhere. Phragmites are coming in and driving out the cattails. Cattail roots were a starchy food source for American colonists and native Americans.

I don’t remember any purple loosestrife on Long Island, but it has taken over lots of wet fields upstate including parts of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The director there (Tom Jasicoff, from HAS many years ago) has imported some natural enemies (insects) from Europe that eat and kill the weed.

There is a particularly troublesome weed in our area called black swallowwort. It normally grows a couple of feet high, but wherever it can climb, it acts like a vine and will grow upwards for six or seven feet. It matures in mid to late summer and opens its pods like milkweed. Millions of new seeds are spread by the wind. It grows densely in wooded areas as well as fields. We mow our field just before the pods open to try to stem the invasion. It doesn’t work. Our woods are full to overflowing with swallowwort and out of range of the mower. We are only yards from Taughannock Falls State Park and their dominant ground cover is swallowwort. Pity all the other things that used to grow there. Even deer won’t eat it. (Talk about invasive critters.)

Aquatic invasives such as water chestnuts don’t seem to be a problem in this area, but we have seen them in the Hudson River. Another aquatic invasive, which I don’t think you will see on Long Island, is the zebra mussel. It has come into the Great Lakes and connecting waterways from the holds and hulls of ships from Europe. It has no natural enemies here and it multiplies like crazy. It clogs the intakes of lakeside power plants. It colonizes docks, boats, and other things that don’t work so well clustered with little mussels. The mussels are filter feeders and the presence of zillions of little filters has made lake water so clear, marine organisms get too much sunshine and not enough murk for protection. Some cynics have said the mussels are to blame for global warming and impacted wisdom teeth but we don’t want to get carried away, do we?

What do we do with all this stuff? Well, what do *you* do? Our chapter of The Nature Conservancy has found it helpful to be always alert to invasives in their sanctuaries. When something is discovered, work parties are dispatched immediately to uproot it and destroy it. This is not 100 percent effective, but it keeps the invader from spreading. This approach works for garlic mustard as long as you keep after it for about five years, until the roots die from lack of an above-ground presence. I discovered Japanese knotweed in one spot on our farm last year. I have been attacking it with pruning shears and root poison. Will that work? Stay tuned. Again, it may take several years to be sure.

One final thought. I have not seen kudzu here. I hope I never do. I know you have a little in Huntington. Please keep it under control. The up-country thanks you.

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.

Don’t Forget

We need your recipes for HAS’s cookbook. 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!



Out on a Limb
by Alex McKay

A while ago I reported on serendipity and some chance encounters with people and birds - the Taylors, a Solitary Sandpiper, a Prothonotary Warbler, a pair of New Year's bluebirds. Here we go with another chance encounter - this time at a small residential motel in Florida where Ruth and I have been spending some winter time in recent years. I had exchanged greetings with a new neighbor, Eldon from Michigan, and had a couple of brief conversations. Then, one morning shortly before we were leaving, Eldon tapped on my door and indicated that he had heard I was interested in birds.

So begins the tale. Eldon revealed that he was a biologist, an ornithologist, and the founder and current founding editor of *Birders World* magazine. I told him that I frequently looked through the magazine in the library and had read a number of articles, but, unfortunately, I was not a subscriber. I asked if he recalled an article by Pete Dunne on pishing to attract birds, a practice I had never found particularly productive and had recently been unsuccessfully trying in the Florida scrub. Eldon laughed and recalled a time he had been with Dunne in Belize and few birds were in evidence. A few pishes from Dune and birds amazingly began appearing all around them. Anyone have a pishing story?

In a subsequent conversation a day later I learned the history of the founding of *Birders World*. After experiencing burnout in his profession in 1987, Eldon hit on the idea of creating a magazine for the growing community of serious birders. A series of mailings and encouragement from birding friends led to a meeting with Roger Tory Peterson at his studio in Connecticut and a gracious endorsement and permission from the master to use some of his work in promotions. With an initial promise of some 20,000 subscribers, the publication was launched. At one point the list approached 80,000 but has since leveled out at between 50,000 and 60,000.

Eldon later sold the property but remains as Founding Editor and a contributor with a column "Amazing Birds." In the February 2008 issue that he gave me, he has an interesting piece on Darwin's finches and their adaptations that were so important in leading to the conclusions about natural selection and evolutionary biology. Eldon is currently working on some lectures on global warming and the effects of changing climate on bird reproduction and dynamics.

Birders World features writers such as Pete Dunne, Kenn Kaufman, and David Allen Sibley with stories and articles about experiences with birds and professional tips on identification techniques. There are technical articles about equipment - tripods, binoculars, waterproofing, lens coatings - and plenteous fine bird photographs. The

February issue has a wonderful article on pink flamingos at Snake Bight in the Everglades and another by current editor Chuck Hagner on birds and birding in Uganda. There is a regular feature with notes and maps "Hotspots Near You" contributed by readers which this month included Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. There are also excellent book reviews. It is a magazine exclusively by, about, and for birders.

Check it out at the local library or visit the website www.BirdersWorld.com. After my chance encounter with founder Eldon Greij, I plan to become a subscriber.

Volunteers Needed



Audubon New York's Long Island Bird Conservation program is looking for volunteers to assist with endangered species protection at local beaches. Piping Plovers and other endangered beach-nesting birds have already returned to sites located in the Huntington area.

Volunteers will assist with endangered species conservation efforts through nest monitoring and habitat protection efforts. If you are interested in volunteering with the program, please contact Carolyn Spilman, Long Island Bird Conservation Coordinator, Audubon New York, at cspilman@audubon.org or 631-477-6456.



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.

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 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 a 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 Refuge's 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.

June 2008

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Garden City Bird Sanctuary with Rob Alvey*. From a neglected and trash filled storm water basin, a community nature preserve is flourishing. The vision statement adopted by the grass roots community group was simply "to establish a local greenspace for the demonstration of environmental stewardship through education and volunteer community services." The concept developed into The Garden City Bird Sanctuary, a protected nine-acre nature refuge at a County storm water basin (sump) next to a local playground. Please join Rob Alvey, Director of the Garden City Bird Sanctuary and a professional geologist, as he discusses how this beautiful sanctuary came to be and takes us on a visual tour. *A field trip to the sanctuary is scheduled for June 7. See Field Trips page for details.*

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

Monday, June 30 – Deadline for the August-September-October Killdeer.

NOTE: There are no Membership Meetings in July and August.

Birders' Box

The Montauk trip was well attended. We saw 51 species. Notable birds were Ring-necked Duck, White-winged, Black and Surf Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Common Golden-eye, Common Eider, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Wood Duck, and Buffleheads. Common Loons, Pied-Billed Grebes, both Double-crested and Great Cormorants, Turkey Vultures (yes on LI), Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks were seen. The surprise of the day was a few American Pipits that stayed around for a good while giving us wonderful views. Two people got a glimpse of a Short-eared Owl flying across Dune Rd. Common Grackles, Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds were seen as well as Common Redpolls and Killdeer.

Of the 23 species seen on the next trip, four new species were added to our total. On the trip to Target Rock, attended by 13 people, the new birds are Yellow-rumped Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Cedar Waxwing.

The Woodcock Watch, attended by about 50 people altogether, yielded good views of Woodcocks on several evenings.

The trip to Shu Swamp, TR Sanctuary, and Sagamore Hill was attended by more than 20 people. A relatively quiet birding day, only 38 species seen, but each location produced interesting species. At Shu we saw Wood Duck, Rusty Blackbirds, Hairy Woodpecker, and a Mandarin Duck (escapee, no doubt). At TR we saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and at Sagamore Hill Gannets, Red-throated Loon, and Horned Grebe.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 70.



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.

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.

Sunday, May 11, 8:00 AM – Central Park. (*Note earlier time, and that this is Mother's Day.*) The finest spot for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Directions: Meet at the Boathouse in Central Park. It is easily accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5th Avenue near 76th St. Walk downhill veering left past the Alice in Wonderland statues, by the right side of the sailboat pond then head toward the right, up the hill, cross the roadway and to the Boathouse. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Saturday, May 17 – Wolf Conservation Center and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. This trip required advance reservations but you can still meet us at Ward Pound Ridge for an afternoon hike. Contact Stella Miller for details (516-695-0763).

Sunday, May 18 – Birdathon All day trip. You are welcome to participate for all or part of the day and to leave at any time. Beginning at the parking lot on 76th Avenue of Alley Pond Park, then Forest Park then Jamaica

Bay Wildlife Refuge. Expect to see at least 100 species of birds. This is a major fundraiser and lots of fun. Leader: Bob May. Join us or sponsor a participant! Contact Ginger Mahoney (516-922-4599) for more information.

Directions: Take Northern State Parkway to exit 23. Go past the Cross Island Parkway exits to Union Turnpike. Turn right, (west) onto Union Turnpike to Springfield Blvd. Go right on Springfield Blvd to 76th Avenue. Turn right. The entrance to the parking lot for Alley Pond is immediately on your left. Meet at the lot.

Saturday, May 24, 8:30 AM – Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. This outstanding birding area in southeastern Sullivan County attracts birders from all over the northeast. We will be accompanied by a guide from the Bashakill Area Association. Bring snacks, although we will be stopping for a meal AFTER our excursion.

Directions: Take Rt. 17 north to Exit 113. Turn south on Rt. 209 towards Port Jervis and proceed 1.9 miles. At that mileage point, look for the Moose Lodge on your left and immediately after it, turn left onto Haven Road. We will meet in the parking lot of the Moose Lodge. Approximate travel time from Huntington: 2.5 hours. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763). Registration a must. For those traveling up the night before there is a Days Inn in Wurtsboro (845-888-2727 or 800-916-4614). Whip-poor-will is sometimes heard right outside the motel!

June 2008

Saturday, June 7, 8:00 AM – Garden City Bird Sanctuary. From a neglected and trash filled storm water basin, a community nature preserve is flourishing. Please join us for a stroll around this beautiful sanctuary before our June 11th membership meeting explaining how the Bird Sanctuary came to be.

Directions: From the east: Jericho Turnpike West. Make left onto Denton Avenue South in Garden City. Denton becomes Tanners Pond Road. Look for sign for sanctuary on right. Park on the street. Coming from the west, make right onto Denton. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).



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

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May - June - July 2008



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Field Trips (Continued)

Saturday June 28/Sunday June 29 – RamsHorn Livingston Sanctuary/Rheinstrom Hill Wildlife Sanctuary/Buttercup Farm Paddle, Hiking, and Birding

Overnight Trip. On Saturday the 28th we will meet at 8:00 AM at Buttercup Farm. The sanctuary is relatively undeveloped. Larry Federman of Audubon New York will accompany us on our excursion. After Buttercup Farm, we will stop for lunch and then head over to Rheinstrom Hill, a 1,037-acre sanctuary located in the southeastern corner of Columbia County. For those of you that are interested, some of us will be heading into Kingston in the evening to hear Larry Federman perform with his band! We will then meet the next morning at 10:30 AM at RamsHorn. We will kayak or canoe RamsHorn Livingston Sanctuary. Larry will again join us for this adventure.

Directions to Buttercup Farm: Located off Route 82, between Pine Plains and Stanfordville, Dutchess County. From the Taconic Parkway, exit at US Route 44. Make left (North) on Route 82. Follow Route 82 through Stanfordville, continue on approx 4 miles until you see sign for Buttercup Farm on right. Approximate travel time is 2.5 hours. For those who will be joining us just for the paddle, directions to RamsHorn: Take the New York State Thruway (I-87) to Exit 21. Turn left onto Rt. 23B and stay straight until you reach Route 9W. Turn right on Rt. 9W South. From Rt. 9W, turn left (east) onto Grandview Ave.,

drive around the circle, onto Dubois Road, and down the hill to the Sanctuary. Approximate travel time: 3 hours from Huntington. There are hotels and motels in the area; call trip leader for suggestions. Leader: Stella Miller (516-682-5977).

July 2008

Saturday, July 12, 9:00 AM – Minnewaska State Park Preserve. Minnewaska State Park is situated in Ulster County on the dramatic Shawangunk Mountain ridge that rises more than 2,000 feet above sea level. The terrain is rugged and rocky, blanketed by dense hardwood forest encircling two lakes. We will hike some of the trails and enjoy the wildlife and scenery. Hike length will be approximately 5 miles. Afterwards, for those that are interested, we will enjoy a delicious vegetarian lunch at the Rosendale Café in nearby Rosendale. For those who are interested in making a weekend of it, there are plenty of places to stay in and around New Paltz.

Directions: Upon exiting the New York State Thruway in New Paltz (Exit 18) (north or south), make a left on Route 299. Stay on 299 for approximately 6 miles. At Junction Route 44/55 make a right. Park entrance is about 6 miles up winding mountain road on left. We will meet in the upper parking lot. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).