

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

May – June – July 2010

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Adopt-a-Highway

by Simone DaRos



The March Pulaski Road Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up was quite productive. The melted winter snow revealed nearly 10 bags of trash comprised primarily of plastic bags, coffee cups, and plastic and glass beverage bottles. The weather was mild and allowed for the welcome feeling of early spring in the air with the sounds of Northern Cardinal and Killdeer in the background. Our eager volunteer group dutifully took charge of caring for HOBAS' stretch of highway. At the conclusion of the clean-up participants felt energized to be working together, getting exercise and fresh air, and rewarded about helping to maintain the beauty of this open space area in between Wick's Farm and Froelich Farm Nature Preserve. A big thank you goes out to our volunteers and we hope to see you at an upcoming clean-up gathering. We will conduct clean-ups at 7:30 AM meeting at the parking lot across from Wick's Farm on:

- Sunday, May 16
- Sunday, June 13
- Saturday, July 3

If you are interested in signing up to become part of this committee, please contact Simone at 516-987-7136.

Garage Sale

Here is your opportunity to clean out the closets and organize the basement while supporting the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. On **Saturday, June 12th** we will be holding our **fifth annual garage sale at 173 West Pulaski Road, Huntington Station from 9:00 to 3:00** 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, jewelry, toys, or anything you think can be used by someone else. **We will accept donations from Friday June 4th through Wednesday, June 9th.** Please call Cathy Fitts (631-427-



8623) or Ginger Mahoney (516-922-4599) for drop-off times and directions. Remember, your trash is someone else's treasure! (The rain date is Sunday, June 13th.)

Birdathon 2010 - May 23

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



It's that time of year again! Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon will once again be holding our annual Birdathon, one of our biggest fundraisers. Teams will be birding various locations across Long Island and New York State on **May 23rd** with one team starting Saturday and finishing up Sunday night. We have set \$5,000 as our goal and with your help, we are confident we can meet it!

Participants seek sponsors for this Big Weekend when we diligently search and record as many species as possible. We usually see 100+ species.

Please consider joining the HOBAS Birdathon team. Join us for all or part of the weekend. Bring a friend or family member. Ask your friends to sponsor you. To up the ante, **the Birdathon team member who brings in the most donations will win a fantastic prize!** Please contact Stella Miller at 516-682-5977 if you would like to join a team.

If you cannot participate, please make a donation in support of Birdathon, or sponsor a team member. **Sponsors are entered to win fabulous prizes based on their sponsorship levels. Please keep an eye out for our Birdathon mailing with details.**

The prize drawing will be held at the June membership meeting, on June 9, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. You do not have to be present to win.

This support is crucial to our chapter. Help raise donations to support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter. Be assured that any donation you make will be used responsibly and that any amount will be greatly appreciated!

May Program

Wednesday, May 12
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
 7:30 PM Speaker

An Introduction to the Pine Barrens
with John Turner

Formed by a unique set of geological conditions over the past 15,000 years, the Pine Barrens is Long Island's premier ecosystem, its most significant conservation success story, and one of the Northeast's greatest natural treasures. This program will illustrate many of the plant and animal species, natural communities, and ecological processes that collectively shape this important ecosystem and discuss the three-decade long battle to save the landscape that many refer to as "Long Island's Central Park".

The mission of the Huntington-Oyster Bay 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-Oyster Bay 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
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You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.hobaudubon.org.

E-mail us at **has@huntingtonaudubon.org**.

River Otters on the North Shore

by Lindy Nielsen

In mid-January, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, hosted a morning program at the Cold Spring Harbor Library, presented by Michael Bottini. Michael Bottini has studied many different wildlife species throughout the US. Having grown up on Long Island, he moved back here a few years ago to study river otters on Long Island. Expecting the most activity to be out east, he chose to live in Amagansett.

His presentation, based on his 2008 survey, was fascinating, telling us about the habits of river otters, their habitats, food sources, activities, families, etc. It was astounding to realize that many areas on Long Island are suited to this elusive mammal. They are semi-aquatic, spending most of their time on land traveling from freshwater pond to pond or estuarine ecosystems, cat-napping whenever they feel the need. Their fur does not allow them to take to the water for long periods, so diving for a meal of fish is their main reason to be in the water. Once out they rub themselves dry on the riverbanks, leaving signs of smooth, cleared areas and tell tale scat.

Signs of river otters have been found or road kills reported, along the Carmans, Connetquot, Nissequogue, and Peconic Rivers but the most active area on Long Island is right here on the North Shore, at the Upper and Lower Frances Ponds in Mill Neck, the ponds then lead into Shu Swamp Preserve. Unfortunately, several road kills have been reported but many areas along the shoreline of Upper Frances pond have been found with otter activity.

So, once the program ended at the library, many of the listeners, lead by Michael Bottini, headed to Mill Neck for a field trip to find otter signs and scat, which we did. In fact, because the upper pond was slightly frozen, we saw an otter trail leading across the pond to the far shore.

This is very exciting to see river otter signs right here in Nassau County. Let's hope that the population thrives and some day, while out walking near a stream or pond, one might catch a glimpse of a Long Island river otter.

Correction

In the March-April issue of the *Killdeer*, the article "CSH Library and Environmental Center" said "The Library Board engaged Lilith Jones, a young local artist . . ." It should have said "Due to the generosity of Caroline and Arthur Saladino the library was able to engage Lilith Jones, a young local artist . . ."

We apologize for the omission.

News from the President

by Stella Miller



As I mentioned last issue, I found myself with an awful lot of free time this past winter. One thing I did to occupy my time was look for owls. A lot. In fact, I was obsessed with owls: Long Eared, Short Eared, Northern Saw Whet, Eastern Screech, and Great Horned Owls, I saw them all. Much to my dismay, the Snowy Owl eluded me, a species I normally have no problem finding. In January, John

Turner and I led an owl prowl to Prosser Pines Preserve and although we were unable to call in anything that night, participants came away from the evening with a newfound appreciation of owls thanks to the program we provided beforehand. (We like to think the program kept the group from making us walk the proverbial plank for not producing birds.) For those of you who did not attend, I would like to share with you some of the adaptations that make owls such successful nighttime hunters.

Of course, not all owls are strictly nocturnal. Some, such as the Short Eared and Great Gray are crepuscular (meaning they are active at dawn and dusk, although the Great Grey will also hunt during the day). Others, such as the Snowy, are partly diurnal (active during the day), while some are mainly diurnal (Northern Hawk Owl).

Many people believe that owls can see in complete darkness. Not true. They are just as blind as you and me in a completely blackened room. How do they see at night then? Well, think about it. The night sky is never completely dark. Not really. Owls possess a remarkable ability to utilize even the smallest amount of light due to an abundance of rods in their eyes. There are two types of photoreceptors in the eye: cones, which are related to color vision, and rods, which are related to the ability to see in dim light. Owls have 10x as many rods as humans do. Check this out: if a match stick was lit in a football stadium, not only would an owl see it, that tiny flicker of light would provide enough light for successful hunting! Owls also have huge eyes, which account for 1-5% of their body weight. In fact, the eyes are so huge that they are elongated, rather than round. These tubes are held into place by bony structures called sclerotic rings. This is why an owl cannot move its eyeballs. Thanks to its 14 vertebrae (to our 7) an owl can move its head 270 degrees, lightning fast, 3/4 of the way this way, 3/4 of the way that way, and almost upside down, thus making up for this lack of peripheral vision.

Now, what is not a myth is that owls CAN hunt and catch prey in complete darkness. Didn't I just say that it is a myth owls can see in complete darkness? How on earth

can they hunt then? Because they do not need to see to hunt. Their hearing ability is astounding. The ears are located at the side of the head, behind the eyes and covered by feathers. Most owls have asymmetrical openings. The feathered facial disc acts like a radar, guiding sounds into the owl's ears. When a sound is detected, the owl is able to tell from what direction it is coming in an instant. If a sound is coming from the left of the owl, the left ear will pick up on it first. The owl will turn its head until it can hear the sound simultaneously in both ears. At that point it knows whatever is causing the sound is directly in front of it. Owls can detect a left/right time difference of 30 millionths of a second. They can also tell if the sound is higher or lower, thanks to those asymmetrical ear openings.

The owl's brain processes this melding of left, right, up and down in an instant, which then pinpoints with deadly accuracy where the sound is coming from. Once the bird has determined the location of its victim, it flies towards it, always keeping in direct line, adjusting midflight if the prey moves in order to keep the prey within the mark. Thanks to their astonishing hearing, owls are also able to strike prey that is buried under snow or leaf litter, without ever seeing it. Incredible!

You have to admit, owls are pretty cool to look at, but when you understand the adaptations that make an owl an owl, you understand just how amazing these birds of prey truly are. Happy spring and summer to all our friends and members at Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon!

June Program

Wednesday, June 9

Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

Members' Night Rescheduled

Members' Night was canceled due to snow in February.

This is the year of the Kestrel! Audubon New York and 14 Local Chapters and Audubon centers around the state are partnering with NYS Department of Transportation and other organizations to help boost levels of breeding American Kestrels in NYS. This project ultimately aims to reverse the decline of American Kestrels in NYS by addressing a main threat to their population, lack of suitable nest sites within appropriate habitat. **Tonight the HOBAS Youth Outreach Committee will discuss the natural history and habits of the American Kestrel.**

As a special thank you to all our loyal members, pizza will be served tonight.

Muttontown Preserve Plan

by Pat Aitken

Saratoga Associates presented a draft management plan for the Muttontown Preserve to a standing room only crowd at the Chelsea Mansion on Saturday, March 13th. Representatives of Saratoga Associates presented a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the geology and ecology of the preserve.

After their presentation, discussion was opened to the many attendees as to how and what groups use the preserve. The equestrian community had a very strong representation at the meeting. Kathleen Kleinman of the Nassau Suffolk Horseman’s Association and other leaders of equestrian groups addressed the crowd and spoke of how they utilize the preserve and their strong role in stewardship. They routinely perform trail maintenance and do regular cleanups of the preserve. Local Audubon societies were well represented by Stella Miller, president of HOBAS, and Jennifer Wilson-Pines of NSAS as well as other members of both chapters. The Muttontown Preserve is a haven for birds and birders alike. I know from my own experience with Scouts that they use the preserve as well - for day hikes and for weekend campouts. I remember how much the boys used to look forward to camping there, especially on Thanksgiving weekend, and having the opportunity to explore the remnants of the King Zog estate. Plein air painters (which literally means painters who paint outdoors) also utilize the preserve. Add in school groups, day hikers, and people who come just to enjoy a stroll in the outdoors, and there is clearly a very diverse and extensive use of Muttontown Preserve.

Many of the people at the preserve spoke of the deplorable lack of maintenance of the preserve and the exterior of Chelsea Mansion itself. I have to wonder, without the trail maintenance done by the horsemen and other user groups (and please forgive me if I have omitted anyone I should have mentioned) what shape the preserve would be in?

Other concerns raised by attendees included how to manage invasive species that are a problem at Muttontown Preserve. Muttontown is not alone in being plagued by invasives - this is a nationwide problem that is disturbing ecosystems everywhere. The North Shore Land Alliance engaged Saratoga Associates to perform this analysis to provide Nassau County with a roadmap to guide Nassau County in how to manage the preserves they have acquired. Feedback from the public will be gathered and a further draft will be presented. The desired outcome is to have achievable recommendations for the best potential utilization of the site. The possibility of forming public and private partnerships to attain that goal was also discussed. The management plan developed for Muttontown Preserve could be used as a template for the

management of other properties in the Nassau County system.

Editor’s Note: This article originally appeared in the March 18, 2010 issue of the Oyster Bay Enterprise Pilot.

Too Much Paper?



Do you have too much paper? We can help by sending you the *Killdeer* via e-mail rather than

getting a paper copy in the US Mail. All you need to do is visit www.hobaudubon.org and sign up for our Email List using the form on the sidebar. Then send an e-mail to has@huntingtonaudubon.org and let us know that you no longer want to receive a paper copy of the *Killdeer*. If you have all ready signed up for our Email List, just send an e-mail letting us know you no longer want to receive a paper copy of the *Killdeer*. We do not share the e-mail list with any other organizations and you can unsubscribe at any time. Please consider receiving the *Killdeer* electronically. It will not only help lower our costs by reducing the number of copies we print and mail, but it will also help the environment.



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-Oyster Bay 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) **Make check payable to National Audubon**
- Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine) **Make check payable to Huntington Audubon**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

e-Mail _____

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

Birding While Exercising

by Peter Martin



One interesting aspect of birding and natural history observation is that some of the best opportunities present themselves when we are not specifically “birding.” I’ve had great pelagic encounters (seabirds, whales, etc.) while shark and tuna fishing off Long Island, and have seen a frigate bird and numbers of shearwaters while kayaking off Fire Island. I’ve viewed gannets, cormorants, and pelicans from underwater while skin diving. My only viewing of the aurora borealis was while bike riding the Wantagh Parkway after dark last spring. Last fall, while I was in my dentist’s chair, a Cooper’s hawk chased a starling across my field of view. My excitement caused my dentist to fear he hit a nerve! I’m sure we’ve all seen neat things while driving (be careful).

Serendipity aside, it’s good to be prepared. Being alert and mindful of the possibilities of your location and season help. Having an even old “spare” pair of binoculars and field guides handy in your vehicle makes sense too.

But this article is supposed to be about birding while exercising. I compete in a number of triathlons and road races each year and training for these events entails a great deal of biking and running, year-round. Instead of enduring the vehicles, fumes, noise, hard pavement, and dogs of the roads of Long Island, I train primarily on beaches, trails, and bikeways. It’s a simple matter to carry a lightweight set of binoculars in a fanny pack. When they are properly adjusted you almost forget they are there. Just don’t forget to remove the pack before you go for a swim; I’ve only made that mistake once. If your exercise is walking around your neighborhood, local parks, or the Jones Beach or Long Beach boardwalks bring your binoculars. I’ve seen an eagle over my house in Bellmore, both species of pelicans (White Pelicans on the Christmas Bird Count!) from the Jones Beach boardwalk, and seals and, once, a whale from the Long Beach boardwalk. Although studying fall warblers and shorebirds while running doesn’t really work, you do notice the larger and more spectacular wildlife, and you can always interrupt your run and stop to observe when you encounter something interesting.

One more important consideration is to avoid doing environmental damage while indulging yourself in exercise. I obviously avoid bird nesting areas and areas with sensitive vegetation. But sometimes you can cause a disturbance unintentionally. While I was running an upstate trail, a Northern Goshawk launched itself from a tree and raked its talons through a sweatshirt, tee shirt, and a little bit of me. I thereafter altered my route and respected its nesting territory. While running a wooded

north shore trail at night, I had my cap knocked off my head and stopped briefly to observe three Screech Owlets sitting on a branch while an adult owl made repeated passes, causing a breeze over my head. Here too, I left promptly and did not intrude again.

While running, you routinely disturb insects, small birds, and mammals. On several occasions, I’ve seen predators seemingly take advantage of this and use me as a “beater”. Along Ocean Parkway I’ve seen a Merlin take a sparrow and a Barn Owl take a rodent in this manner. Both birds had been following my progress for a while before making the kills. Most spectacular was during a run on the open beach, when a rabbit I had inadvertently flushed from a bayberry thicket made a very narrow escape from a Snowy Owl I had not even noticed. These things don’t happen every day, but over 30 years the experiences and memories add up.

If you are out at night, sound plays a greater role, various frogs, American Woodcocks, Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-wills widows, Screech Owls, and Great Horned Owls are all more readily heard than seen on Long Island.

Even far from roads and especially at night, be concerned about safety. I’ve never had trouble with other people, but perhaps I’ve been lucky and I do choose my areas carefully. Uneven footing can be a hazard—running along the parkway shoulder at night and looking at the stars is great until you step in a hole that used to hold a signpost! As far as hazardous wildlife, I fear ticks the most on Long Island, but I have had experiences with a Black Bear in Montana, a Cottonmouth in Georgia, and a Fer-de-lance in Belize, so knowledge of the local areas is a plus!

So, try to couple outdoor exercise with nature observation and your rewards will be magnified! The possibilities are endless. Runners and birders are supposed to be compulsive, and the combination can be both a burden and a blessing.



Visit us on the web
www.hobaudubon.org

The pizza that will be served at our June meeting is being donated by **Di Raimo Pizzeria and Restaurant**. We thank them for their generous donation. Next time you are hungry, visit them at **76 Wall Street, Huntington**. You can call in an order at **631-673-5755**.



MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and activities of the Huntington-Oyster Bay 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.

May 2010

Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *An Introduction to the Pine Barrens with John Turner.* Formed by a unique set of geological conditions over the past 15,000 years, the Pine Barrens is Long Island's premier ecosystem, its most significant conservation success story, and one of the Northeast's greatest natural treasures. This program will illustrate many of the plant and animal species, natural communities, and ecological processes that collectively shape this important ecosystem and discuss the three-decade long battle to save the landscape that many refer to as "Long Island's Central Park".

Wednesday, May 19, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

June 2010

Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Members' Night Rescheduled - The American Kestrel with the Huntington-Oyster Bay Youth Outreach Committee.* This is the year of the Kestrel. Audubon New York and 14 Local Chapters and Audubon Centers around the state are partnering with NYSDOT and other organizations to help boost levels of breeding American Kestrels in New York State. This project ultimately aims to reverse the decline of American Kestrels in New York State by addressing a main threat to their population, lack of suitable nest sites within appropriate habitat. Tonight we will discuss the natural history and habits of the American Kestrel. **As a special thank you to all our loyal members, pizza will be served tonight.**

Saturday, June 12, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM – Garage Sale. See article on page 1 for details.

Wednesday, June 16, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

July 2010

Tuesday, July 6 – Deadline for August-September-October Killdeer.



NOTE: There are no meetings in July.

Birders' Box

On February 21, a beautiful day, 15 people enjoyed the walk to Point Lookout. Besides common birds such as Mourning Dove, Starling and Mockingbird, Northern Flicker, and Goldfinch were seen. Waterfowl included Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Brandt Geese, Canada Geese, Mallard, Black Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Red-Breasted Merganser. Also seen were the 3 usual gulls, Greater Blackbacked, Herring, and Ring-billed. We added Horned Lark, Field Sparrow, Common Eider, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, and Red-winged Blackbird to our year's list.

On Sunday, March 7, a sunny chilly morning enticed 8 birders to go to North Shore Ponds and Harbors to view waterfowl, but there was a paucity of birds. Altogether we saw 26 species counting Starlings, Canada Geese, and House Sparrows. Among the ducks seen were Gadwall, American Widgeon, Mallard, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Ducks. We got good views of Great Blue Heron and several Red-tail Hawks overhead. A quiet but lovely day that warmed up by the time we ended our walk giving hope for the arrival of spring.

Sunday, April 4, had good weather, good birds, and seals at Jones Beach. We added these birds to the year's list: American Oystercatcher, Sanderling, Killdeer, Great Egret, Northern Gannet, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Tree Swallow. Also seen were Common and Red-throated Loons, Long-tailed Duck, Great Blue Heron, Song and White-throated Sparrows.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HOBAS trips is 68.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington-Oyster Bay 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.

May 2010

Sunday, May 2, 8:00 AM – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Known internationally as a premier US birding spot. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: Take Southern State Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd south, Exit 17S, then head south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1.25 miles from the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light, meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, May 9, 8:00 AM – Mother's Day in Central Park.

One of the finest spots for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Directions: Meet at the Boathouse in Central Park. It is easily accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5th Ave 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.

Sunday, May 16, 9:00 AM – Sterling Forest in Orange County.

Among spectacular scenery, an excellent place to look for spring migrants such as Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

Directions: Take Exit 15 off of NY 87 and head north. Make a left onto 17A. In about 2 miles make a left onto State Route 84 (Long Meadow Road). Follow this about 4 miles to HQ Building/Visitor Center where we will meet.

Saturday, May 22, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM – "Cook's Tour" of the Pine Barrens.

As a follow-up to the May 12th program, we will be taking a "Cook's Tour" of the Pine Barrens, making three to four stops in representative wetland and upland habitats in the Pine Barrens including Cranberry Bog County Nature Preserve and the Dwarf Pine Plains. Leader: John Turner (516-695-1490).

Directions: The group will meet at the Park and Ride lot off of Exit 54 of the LI Expressway (Wick's Road) at 9:00. Heavy rain will cancel.

Sunday, May 23, 6:45 AM – Birdathon! All Day Event.

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 Ave 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. Join us or sponsor a participant! Other teams will be starting out on the 22nd and birding a full two days, but this is the main event. Contact Stella Miller (516-695-0763) for more information. (*See article on page 1.*)

Directions: Take Northern State Pkwy to Exit 23. Go past the Cross Island Pkwy exits to Union Tpke. Turn right (west) onto Union Tpke to Springfield Blvd. Go right on Springfield Blvd to 76th Ave. Turn right. The entrance to the parking lot for Alley Pond Park is on the left.

Monday, May 31, 7:30 AM - Fuchs Pond Preserve. The 20.7-acre Fuchs Pond lies within the West Watershed of Crab Meadow, an identified priority of the New York State Open Space Plan.

Directions: 21 Norwood Road. Take 25A/Northern Boulevard in Northport. Go north (left-hand turn) on Waterside over Norwood Ave, pass the pond on right. Make the next right onto Seaside Court and there's a little parking area on the left. Leaders: Stella Miller (516-695-0763) and Brent Bomkamp.

June 2010

Sunday, June 6, 8:30 AM – Ramshorn Sanctuary Paddling Trip.

This Audubon Sanctuary is part of the largest tidal swamp in the northern Hudson River estuary. One can hope to spot a Bald Eagle, waterfowl, and a variety of other wildlife. Larry Federman of Audubon New York will accompany us on our adventures. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763). Registration by June 1st for the paddling is a must. For those going up the night before, suggested hotel: Red Ranch Motel (518-678-3380). Paddling trip: \$20 for adults, \$15 children 7-15.



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Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
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May – June – July 2010



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Field Trips (Continued from page 7)

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 Rt. 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.

Saturday June 26, 8:00 AM – Cupsogue County Park. This is the best place in New York to find Arctic Terns. Black and Roseate Terns are commonly seen. There is a \$12.00 fee for parking. Call trip leader for meeting location in order to carpool into park. Leaders: Brent Bomkamp and Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

Directions: Cupsogue can be reached from the Sunrise Highway by taking Exit 63S onto Riverhead Road south. Follow the road to its conclusion on Dune Road and make a right. Follow Dune Road to the end and Cupsogue will be directly in front. We will meet in the northeast corner of the parking lot.

July 2010

Saturday, July 10, 3:00 PM – Young Naturalist Walk: David Weld Sanctuary. *This walk is for kids and their parents or guardians.* The Sanctuary offers a diverse habitat of trees, shrubs, ferns, wildflowers along with a variety of small animals and birds. We will wander the woods and discuss the forest ecosystem, the role geology plays in shaping local systems, and identify many of the

plant and animal species we encounter along the way.

Leader: John Turner. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: From Rt. 25A (North Country Road) turn right at the top of the hill west of Smithtown onto Edgewood Ave. Drive 1 mile and turn left onto Nissequogue River Road. Drive 3 miles to the end and turn left onto Horse Race Lane. Drive 0.5 of a mile to a grassy triangle with trees and turn left onto Boney Lane. Go 0.2 of a mile to the entrance on the right.

Together Green Volunteer Day: Garlic Mustard Pull

Sunday, May 30 – 9:00 AM -1:00 PM – All Ages

At the **Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center**, 134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay.

Calling all volunteers! The Garlic Mustard must go! Help us start the summer right by improving the native plant habitat of the Sanctuary. We will be getting down and dirty, pulling Garlic Mustard until it's gone! Please call ahead for more information and to register for this volunteer event.

For more information: call **516-922-3200** or e-mail **trsac@audubon.org**.