

The Huntington Audubon Society  
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



# killdeer

November - December 2006

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

## New Location for HAS Monthly Meeting



Beginning with the Wednesday, January 10, 2007 membership meeting, Huntington Audubon will be meeting regularly at the Cold Spring Harbor Library, 2 miles west of our present location. We will still meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Our new room is in a beautiful location, with convenient parking. The Cold Spring Harbor Library is also designated as the Environmental library for Suffolk County.

**Directions:** If you are coming from the east, just take your usual route to the Huntington Library, but continue traveling west on 25A into the village of Cold Spring Harbor. The library driveway is on the left (opposite Billy Joel Park), before you reach the restaurant called 105 Harbor Rd.

**Traveling from the west,** take 25A into Cold Spring Harbor. (If you are in the habit of cutting through to Huntington via Lawrence Hill Rd. resist the urge or you'll miss the library.) The library driveway is on the right side of 25A immediately after the restaurant called 105 Harbor.

If you want to do a "dry run" during the daytime you'll be rewarded with magnificent views of the harbor from the parking lot, porch, and reading room of the new Cold Spring Harbor Library and you'll realize how convenient the parking is.

We are looking forward to our new venue. See you there.

## Bronx Zoo Animal Enrichment Program Perfume Donations Needed by Stella Miller

If anyone has any old (or new, I am sure that we have all gotten gifts of scents that we cannot stand!) perfumes, aftershaves or colognes, would you please consider donating them to the Bronx Zoo? As part of the Animal Enrichment Program, the Bronx Zoo's Mammal Department uses perfumes and colognes to encourage exploratory behavior and stimulate the senses of big cats and other animals. Their scent supply is running low. Even if there is only a squirt or two left in the bottle, believe me, every drop can be used.

Please look in your closets, your drawers, and under the bathroom sink, ask your friends, and if you find any scents you no longer want please call Stella Miller at (516) 682-5977. There also will be a box at the monthly membership meetings for drop offs.

The animals at the zoo will be VERY grateful! Thank you.

## Nassau County Bond Issue - Don't Forget to Vote



Nassau County voters have an opportunity to vote on a \$100 million Nassau County Environmental Bond Act on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The proposal would protect drinking water, preserve open space and farmland, and obtain new parks for just \$16 a year per household, or \$1.33 per month. The North Shore Land Alliance strongly supports it.



Don't forget to pick up your **birdseed**. The sale is **November 4** at Huntington High School. We cannot guarantee your order if you do not pick it up by **1:00 PM**. The sale runs from **9:00 - 2:30**, but unclaimed seed will be sold starting at 1:00 PM. Thanks for your orders and cooperation.

**November Program**

Wednesday, November 8  
Huntington Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

***Polar Bears at Churchill***

Churchill, Manitoba is known as the polar bear capital of the world, and Pete Salmansohn spent three autumns there as a guide for an eco-tourism company, aboard giant Tundra Buggies. During that time he saw mother bears and cubs, play-fighting between large male bears, arctic foxes, Willow Ptarmigan, and other wildlife. Hundreds of polar bears are stranded there in the fall, waiting for the ice to form on Hudsons Bay so they can hunt seals once again. Join us for an inside look at the lives of these awesome creatures and the unique little town which has received so much attention for its wildlife.

*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**

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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Stella Miller	(516) 682-5977
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**Important Telephone Numbers**

Rare Bird Alert	(212) 979-3070
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**For Distressed Wildlife Call**

Volunteers for Wildlife	(631) 423-0982
TR Sanctuary	(516) 922-3200

You can find us on the World Wide Web at:  
[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)

**Featured Volunteers****Seldom Seen Yet Most Helpful -  
David Papayanopoulos and Ann Brosnan**

If you buy seed at the Bird Seed Sale, you may remember seeing David Papayanopoulos helping load seed into cars. He's been doing it for the last 10 years or so. But that's a passing glance for most of us. The outdoor crew at the Bird Seed Sale remembers him well. David still attends membership meetings quite often, though not as regularly as when he and his wife Rosemarie first joined in the mid 90's. Back then they hardly ever missed a meeting.

Over the years David has provided an invaluable, yet mostly unseen service to Huntington Audubon. Rosemarie has prepared exhibits for and been in charge of the festivals we have participated in for about 10 years. David has helped out at every festival we participated in including the Tulip Festival in Huntington, The Nature Conservancy Festival in Cold Spring Harbor, and the Earth Day Festival in Northport. Many organizations have two separate committees for exhibits, a set-up group and a take-down group. But for HAS, David is our set-up, take-down, fill-in when people need a break manning tables, and storage of exhibit materials person. Lugging and setting up or dismantling exhibits goes unseen, but is critical to the success of our presentation. Thank you, David, for cheerfully doing a thankless job. When he stays at the festival for the whole day, visitors see him, but not HAS members who didn't participate. No wonder he's seldom seen.

Like many of our members, David is also active in other nature related organizations. Currently he is Curator of the Herbarium at Planting Fields Arboretum. He is also active in the Long Island Horticultural Society, the Long Island Cactus and Succulent Society, and the American Rhododendron Society, New York Chapter.

We're pleased and grateful for the time and energy devoted to HAS in his busy retirement.

Another person active over the past 15 years or more at Bird Seed Sales and festivals is Ann Brosnan. She too participated regularly in the activities mentioned above, manning tables, smiling and selling customers yet one more item, besides the one the customer had picked out at the Bird Seed Sale. We always need people to man tables and are grateful to those who offer their time generously and cheerfully.

Over the years Ann has gone on many field trips with us, both local trips and the weekend trip to Chincoteague. Seen at several recent membership meetings, she also used to attend more meetings in the past. We are grateful for her support and look forward to seeing Ann more often again.

## Wildlife in Need of Rescue & Rehabilitation by Stella Miller



It isn't typical for us to write an article about a guest speaker AFTER they have already presented, but as those of you who attended the September meeting know, our guest Bobby Horvath, was someone pretty special. Everyone was so impressed by Bobby that I wanted to say a few words about him, his organization and what you, the HAS member, can do to help them out.

On September 13<sup>th</sup> our guest speaker was Bobby Horvath, founder of *Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation* (WINORR). He was accompanied by Cathy St. Pierre, her 8-year old son Christopher (a wonderful boy who impressed everyone with his poise and confidence in the presence of animals), and a fascinating assortment of raptors.

Bobby grew up wanting to be a veterinarian, but life took him down a different path and he became a New York City fireman instead. He never forgot his passion for animals though, and that is how WINORR was born. WINORR is a nonprofit organization that provides professional care for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in the Nassau and western Suffolk County area. Trained volunteers rescue, rehabilitate, and release these animals back into the wild. Wildlife that is unable to be released is given sanctuary and some become ambassadors for their own kind, entering into the educational program.

Bobby and his volunteers are state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitators. They receive no funds from the state, county, or federal governments and are dependent on donations and grants. WINORR is in constant need of supplies for their day-to-day operations. They currently have a wish list of needed items. Please consider donating some of these items:

**paper towels, towels, baby blankets, bleach, baby wipes, cages (crates, bird cages, etc.) and animal carriers.**

If you are able to provide these items, please contact Stella Miller at (516) 682-5977 for information, or you can call WINORR directly at (516) 293-0587. We will also have a box at our monthly meetings for drop offs. This would be greatly appreciated. Please consider a monetary donation if you are unable to supply any of the above. Checks can be made out to Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation and sent to WINORR, Inc., 202 N. Wyoming Avenue, North Massapequa, NY 11578.

These days the word hero is tossed around so casually - sports figures, celebrities, everyone is called a "hero". Maybe they are to some. But to me, a true hero is someone who through their tireless efforts to fight for those who cannot fight or stand up for themselves, makes a difference

in this world on a much deeper level. Bobby Horvath, with his organization, Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation, does just that.

## Amazing Birds by Elizabeth Fernandez (age 8)



On September 13<sup>th</sup>, I went to the Huntington Library to check out the Audubon Society meeting for my first time. I didn't know if it was going to be interesting, but it turned out to be fantastic. Bobby Horvath, a very caring person for animals and humans, who is also a fireman, brought in real live birds of prey. He rescued them because each bird had an injury.

I liked the Barred Owl best because they are beautiful animals. All the birds were great. Some were scary, but cool to see up close. I learned that the Great Horned Owl doesn't really have horns, but feathers sticking up so that they look like horns. I love birds and I can't wait to see them again next time.

## Did You Know?

National Audubon has assigned the Huntington Chapter an area that includes zip codes straddling the Nassau-Suffolk border - five in Nassau and nine in Suffolk. Sometimes people who live closer to Huntington than to the town where their officially assigned chapter meets join our chapter instead, so we have members from Bethpage, etc. as well.

Nassau's zips are East Norwich-11732, Jericho-11753, Oyster Bay-11771, Syosset-11791, and Woodbury-11797.

Suffolk's are Centerport-11721, Cold Spring Harbor-11724, Commack-11725, East Northport-11731, Greenlawn-11740, Huntington including Halesite and Lloyd Harbor-11743, Huntington Station including Dix Hills-11746, Melville-11747 and Northport -11768.

### December Program

Wednesday, December 13  
Huntington Public Library  
7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Program

### *Flora and Fauna of Big Bend National Park*

Don Riepe, Director of the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society and Jamaica Bay Guardian will present a program titled *Flora and Fauna of Big Bend National Park*. This slide program will include areas north of Big Bend such as Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Davis Mountains State Park. Don will talk about the park's ecology and history as well as show us the birding and natural areas of Big Bend National Park in Texas.

## Every Action Has a Reaction, the Plight of My Osprey

by Shelley Contin-Hubbs

The Sunday morning of July 23, 2006 proved to be much like any other sun filled glorious summer day. After my morning coffee, my ritual was setting up my telescope on my bedroom deck. Once in place, another world opened up to me. Living across from the Ambrose Preserve, there is a vast expanse of wetlands and the panoramic view can be breathtaking. As I pulled the lens covers off, a couple of women walked by, oblivious to not only me, but to the world that lay across the field. This was the time of day that I loved the most. I zeroed in on my target, an Osprey nest that had been occupied by a family of five - mother, father, and three fledglings.

The young were devouring some unfortunate live, floundering fish learning to manipulate their strong talons to hold and shred its flesh, but something was wrong. One of the babies could only maneuver a foot or so in diameter. It seemed as though it was having trouble with its right leg. I stepped back telling myself that I was seeing things, but as I struggled to focus, the reality of the situation became clear. This baby was tethered to the nest.

I panicked. What would I do, who would I call, how could this tragic situation be rectified? I knew nothing about handling raptors and began to feel very helpless. I started dialing every number that I could think of - the Police, Town hall. I made numerous phone calls to no avail, remembering and kicking myself that of all days for this to occur, it would have to be Sunday.

I couldn't imagine how this had happened or why I hadn't noticed this before, but the young had only started to take flight and in doing so I could see the plight of this suffering baby. When the nest was full, their legs were obstructed by the closeness of their bodies. Now that they soared above, I could see this lone baby stumbling and pulling, yanking its foot repeatedly in the hopes of freeing itself. As I looked even more intently it became evident that his leg was extremely swollen and discolored.

With my heart pounding, I phoned several Wildlife Rehabilitators. One had told me that they had the exact situation occur the week before in Smithtown, and made several suggestions of whom to call. Apparently Ospreys are very innovative nest builders and delight in finding twine, strings, plastic bags, fishing monofilament, and debris of all kinds. No one seemed able to help me, the Police, the Harbor Patrol, no one. I even phoned the rescuers of the Osprey from the week before and they felt horrible in telling me that it was out their jurisdiction.

Finally, I heard some positive news. Volunteers for Wildlife in Lloyd Neck work with a rescuer, Jim Jones. They phoned him mentioning my plight and he was

anxious to help. He has a passion for raptors and all wildlife and has done much to help them. He's even been responsible for setting up many Osprey nesting poles thereby single handedly increasing the Osprey population. We spoke, and he agreed to come out first thing the next morning, the only time possible for him to make it, and hopefully it wouldn't be too late.

I barely slept that night wondering how my Osprey was faring. First thing in the morning I rushed to that telescope. It was evident that not only was he suffering, but he was now lying down and when he did move it seemed somewhat labored. At last our rescuer arrived and as we hastefully trudged out to the Osprey nest, we wondered how the family would react to our intervention. It took a while to navigate through the wetlands. When we reached our destination, the parents and the two able fledglings took flight, circling and circling, ever closer. They never swarmed us, as if they knew that we were there to help. The ladder was set and Jim made the climb. The baby instantly lifted off, launching hard into the air, immediately making an arc as the tethered noose tightened. He flopped upside down with a snap, as the lead only afforded him about a foot past the nest, and there he hung.

It took several minutes for him to be freed, minutes that felt like hours. There were massive amounts of rope, twine, monofilament, fishing hooks and metal leads imbedded around his foot. Suddenly I was handed the bird. He was encased in a protective bag, a simple pillowcase, but the emotion of holding him and knowing that he would be safe, enveloped me. Jim went back up the ladder and spent several more minutes eradicating the remaining deadly fishing debris.



*Debris Removed from Osprey Nest*

The baby Osprey was in need of immediate medical attention. It was made clear that he would not have lived another day and I was thankful that my prayers had been answered. At least he was safe and hopefully the injuries sustained would not be too severe. We joked about our

*Every Action Has a Reaction (Continued)*

“release party”. We’d call all the media, and make everyone aware of this hearty, robust, exquisite bird of prey. He represented hope and survival; he represented freedom.



*Baby Osprey with Leg Cast*

Well, disappointment was forthcoming. The Osprey, my Osprey, suffered a severe laceration that severed its tendon and the wound was infected. He had a fishing hook embedded in his foot and its wire leader had sliced right through like a knife. But he WAS rescued and tended to; wounds cleaned, his leg in a cast, meds administered, now only time would tell what his fate would be.

He’s currently healing, two months now, and on the road to recovery. It’s still not known whether he will ever be able to be released and knowing that Ospreys do not take well to living in captivity, his fate is most uncertain. But what is certain, is that birds and wildlife everywhere are dying, dying because of people’s ignorance or sheer apathy. If each of us would just pay more attention to the fact that we coexist, not only with other people, but with so many other living, breathing creatures, this world, our world would be a happier, safer place. We’ve all been taught that every action has a reaction, this is certainly evident here.

### **Out on a Limb** by Alex McKay

A proposal to build 10 wind towers that would be 280 feet tall on the ridge and summit of Pete Gay Mountain adjacent to the Siamese Wilderness Area in the Adirondacks has generated a conflict involving the protection of scenic resources and support for an alternative form of energy generation. The towers could generate enough power to supply most of northern Warren County with clean and renewable energy.

As one proponent of the project has put it, “If we have any hope of mitigating the impacts of global climate change, wind towers will dominate the landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century across the U.S. and the world.” An opponent claims, “From the Hudson Valley to the Smokies, there is no mountain ridgeline that hasn’t been defaced by power transmission lines, cell phone towers, and unbridled construction of all sorts. Let’s be smart and caring enough not to spoil our heritage of the few remaining, precious and unique vistas that our predecessors had the foresight to preserve.”

There are already over 150 wind towers on the western edge of the Adirondacks with more planned or under development. Closer to home, Keyspan’s plans for a wind farm off the coast near Jones Beach is drawing avid opposition from such a luminary as Donald Trump. As the effects of global warming become more and more evident with the shrinking of polar ice and the possible extinction of the polar bear as the most dramatic example, we find ourselves between the proverbial rock and hard place.

Do we sacrifice valued landscapes, seascapes, and wilderness vistas to the pressing need to find solutions to global climate change brought on by over consumption of natural resources, especially through our dependence on fossil fuels and poor energy conservation and efficiency? One who answers “Yes” is environmental writer and advocate Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*, which two decades ago sounded an alarm concerning global climate change. As he eloquently puts it in a recent issue of the newsletter of The Resident’s Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, “The real threat, the deep threat to the Siamese, and to the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest and the High Peaks and Cranberry Lake and the Raquette River and indeed to Alaska and Everest and the Galapagos is the express train called Global Warming now bearing down on us.”

Windfarms alone will not be the answer - nor will energy conservation, hybrid cars, solar panels, compact fluorescent bulbs, or tree planting - but they are all a start in a different direction. We have choices to make, some of them easy, some complex. As McKibben concludes regarding the Pete Gay towers, “That landscape is the center of my emotional universe. But precisely because I love it so, the choice is completely clear.”

Windfarms hold ambiguous promise for our energy future. It may well be that we cannot continue to meet the demands of our civilization and preserve a viable atmosphere without sacrificing vistas and open space to sources of renewable energy. Even The Donald, with his windfall agreement with the state to create Trump on the Boardwalk on the people’s beach, may have to live with a view of a 40-turbine wind farm from his swank restaurant, lobbies, and ballrooms.



## 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 Huntington Public Library except for the months of July and August. **NOTE: Starting January 2007, the monthly meeting will be held at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with refreshments and socialization, followed by announcements and the featured speaker programs from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Board of Directors meetings are open to all HAS members. Board delegates are expected to attend.

### November 2006

**Saturday, November 4, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM** at Huntington High School. **ONLY Bird Seed Sale this year.** Superior bird seed. Be sure to order in advance. We cannot guarantee your order if you do not **pick it up by 1:00 PM.** Order forms will be mailed to your home; extra copies are available at the September meeting or from co-chairs. Volunteers needed. Contact Sharon Brody (516) 433-5590 or Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

**Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Pete Salmansohn presents *Polar Bears at Churchill*. Churchill, Manitoba is known as the polar bear capital of the world, and Pete spent three autumns there as a guide for an eco-tourism company, aboard giant Tundra Buggies. During that time he saw mother bears and cubs, play-fighting between large male bears, arctic foxes, Willow Ptarmigan, and other wildlife. Hundreds of polar bears are stranded there in the fall, waiting for the ice to form on Hudson's Bay so they can hunt seals once again. Join us for an inside look at the lives of these awesome creatures and the unique little town which has received so much attention for its wildlife.

**Sunday, November 12, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon** - Wicks Farm trail maintenance. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

**Monday, November 13** - Deadline for the January - February *Killdeer*. **Note early deadline.**

**Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 PM** - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands Farm.

### December 2006

**Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at Huntington Public Library. Don Riepe, Director of the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society will present a program titled *Flora and Fauna of Big Bend National Park*. This slide program will include areas north of Big Bend such as Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Davis Mountains State Park. Don will talk about the park's ecology and history as well as show us the birding and natural areas of Big Bend National Park in Texas.

**NOTE:** No Board of Directors meeting in December.



### January 2007

**Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 PM** - Membership meeting at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library, 95 Harbor Road, CSH (opposite Billy Joel Park). This is 2 miles west of the Huntington Public Library on Rte 25A. Note new meeting place. See article on page 1 for directions.** A member of the staff at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will present *Owls: Predators of the Night*, a program showing live owls. Owls, the secretive hunters of the night, fascinate people of all ages. Legends and pop culture do not always provide accurate portrayals of these stealthy nocturnal hunters. Join us for a live owl presentation to discover the lives of native owls found in your neighborhood. Learn about the unique adaptations that help make these birds efficient hunters and valuable predators in a variety of ecosystems.

**Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 PM** - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

### 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 11743-0735**



## 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.

### November 2006

**Saturday, November 18, 9:00 AM - Pelham Bay Park.** Look for owls, ducks, and permanent residents. In the past, Barn, Screech, Long-Eared, Saw-whet, and Great Horned owls have been sighted there. Leader: Blair Broughton (516) 692-2980.

**Directions:** Take the Hutchinson River Parkway to the Pelham Bay Park/City Island/Orchard Beach exit. Continue east farther into the park past the traffic circle then veer left to the parking area on Hunters Island. Meet the group there.

### December 2006

**Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM - Morton National Wildlife Refuge trip for families.** Morton NWR is famous for its tame Chickadees, who will eat right out of your hand! We will provide birdseed. You are almost guaranteed to have Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and possibly White-breasted Nuthatches feeding from your hands while we explore the trails of this lovely refuge. Children will love this experience and so will adults! Leader: Stella Miller (516) 695-0763.

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

**Sunday, December 10, ALL Day Trip to Montauk Point. Meet at 9:00 AM** by the restaurant at Montauk Point. Winter waterfowl abound, including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks. Leader: Sharon Brody (516) 433-5590.

**Directions:** Take the LIE to exit 70, Manorville. Go south on Rte 111 to Rte 27. Take Rte 27 east all the way to Montauk Point Lighthouse. There may be a parking fee. Meet by the restaurant opposite the parking lot.

**Saturday, December 23, Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count** - Join Audubon members in the oldest continuous citizen science project. Data is used to determine patterns of increases or decreases in winter populations throughout the U.S. Contact Bill Reeves (631) 266-4309. He will explain the time and place.

### January 2007

**Saturday, January 6, 9:00 AM - Massapequa Preserve and Twin Lakes at Wantagh.** Many ducks up close including Green-winged Teals, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Widgeons, and often Snipe are seen. Some land birds as well. Leader: Maria Kelly (631) 673-0937.

**Directions:** Take Southern State Parkway to exit 30S, Broadway, Massapequa. Go South on Broadway to Euclid Ave. Turn left onto Euclid 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 at the opening.

### Birders' Box

Thirteen people participated in the September 10<sup>th</sup> trip to Jamaica Bay. Fifty-five species were seen that day including Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Merlin, Northern Harrier, and Osprey. The gardens produced eight species of warblers including Northern Parula, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and the bird of the day, that was a life bird for all our group, including the leader, the elusive Connecticut Warbler.

**Number of species seen this year on HAS trips is 153.**



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

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November - December 2006



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## Jamaica Bay - Bird of the Day! by Sharon Brody

"There it is! Under the brush!" One of the participants, on our annual September trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, excitedly pointed to a warbler skulking near a tangle of vines. The bird-log at the visitor's center said that an unusual warbler was in the vicinity of the North Garden. The bird, of course, disappeared into the tangle of vines and leaves. All 13 of us looked for it without success. A few other warblers appeared; Black-throated Blue, Yellow, American Redstart. Again, another, "There it is!" The bird would hop out of the underbrush, bob its rump and flit back in before anyone could get a really good look. Finally, after 15 to 20 minutes of futility, this secretive warbler decided to let us see her. She ambled across the trail for a few seconds, allowing all of us to get a fairly good look. Yes, it was a female playing coy.

The bird had a prominent eye-ring, an olive-brown back, an olive-gray head, and yellow from the breast to the tail. It was a Connecticut Warbler, the Black Rail of the warbler family. It's a very elusive bird and rare to New York. This uncommon bird was a life bird for all of us. Even though we didn't see a lot of birds that day, we all went home excitedly talking about our little skulker.

On a recent bird watching tour, I asked our tour guide, a gentleman who has lead bird-watching trips around the world, whether he had any nemesis birds in the United States. After a thoughtful pause, he said, "Yes, one in particular, the Connecticut Warbler."

## Thanks! And Keep It Up



We recently sent off another box of inkjets, laser cartridges, and discarded cell phones to be recycled. Together we're keeping the environment cleaner. Please keep dropping them off at our meetings, and field trips or at Huntington Business Products on Main Street in Huntington Village. Thanks for your continued support!

## We're Invited . . .

. . . to join the Adirondack Mountain Club on the following ALL DAY trips. Register to get start times and car pool information.

**Saturday, December 16** - Montauk. Co-leaders: Richard Furman (631-692-7356) and Arlene Scholer (516-354-0231); call before 9:00 PM. MUST REGISTER by Friday, December 15.

**Monday, January 1** - 4th Annual *Start Your Year's List* trip. Start local and follow the birds. Leader: Richard Furman (631-692-7356); call before 9:00 PM. MUST REGISTER by Saturday, December 30.

**Saturday, January 27** - Pelham Bay to Hudson River sites for eagles, owls, and water fowl. Co-leaders: Richard Furman (631-692-7356) and Arlene Scholer (516-354-0231); call before 9:00 PM. MUST REGISTER by Thursday, January 25.