

The Huntington Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

November - December 2009

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

News from the President

by Stella Miller



We are pleased to announce that Huntington Audubon will be participating in New York State Audubon's TogetherGreen Kestrel Project. TogetherGreen is a dynamic and innovative Audubon program funded by Toyota that aims to provide inspiration, leadership, and opportunities that inspire people everywhere to take action at home, in their communities and beyond to improve the health of our environment. The Kestrel Project ultimately aims to reverse the decline of American Kestrels in New York State by addressing the main threat to their population, lack of suitable nest sites within appropriate habitat.

This project will engage hundreds of individuals across New York State in a coordinated effort to build, erect, and monitor nest boxes for American Kestrels; to teach people about the plight of Kestrels and other grassland birds; and to spur action by this group of engaged citizens in support of habitat stewardship and other beneficial state agency policies that will eventually result in protection of Kestrel habitats through easements and private land stewardship programs. Huntington Audubon's Youth Outreach Committee (YOC) is spearheading the project and will be engaging Boy and Eagle Scouts to build boxes. We will present a program on this topic at our February meeting and we will be engaging in a public awareness campaign about Kestrels. We are still surveying habitat for installation and have thus far identified Caumsett State Park, Uplands Farm and the Hoffman Center as suitable areas for boxes.

We are looking for volunteers to help install and monitor the boxes in these areas, please reach out to me if you are interested in taking part in this vital restoration project.

Speaking of the Youth Outreach Committee, in addition to

the Kestrel project, the YOC was also approached about installing an Osprey platform in Northport. This project will be done over the winter and we were pleased that Jim Jones of Volunteers for Wildlife will be assisting our efforts. LIPA will be donating the pole for the platform. Our youth only field trips began in September and the YOC also participated in a program at a senior center in Amityville as part of a project designed at bringing seniors together with kids. The YOC will also be helping to plant a garden at the center in the springtime. We have also been asked to host a second bird feeder workshop for Cub Scout Pack 313 and look forward to that.

We continue to work with the Solid Waste Associations of NYS and of North America regarding the methane flare/raptor conflict. Recently the Solid Waste Association of North America was contacted by a landfill operator from North Carolina who had been experiencing raptor fatalities at their facility. They heard about the campaign and reached out to in order to prevent further deaths from occurring. Proof that the campaign is reaching landfills across the country!

We have started something new this year, a series of special Saturday programs. Our first program featured Suzie Gilbert, author of *Flyaway: How a Wildlife Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings* on September 26. In January we will be welcoming Mike Bottini for a program on Long Island River Otters and then venture out to look for otter signs in Mill Neck. Come either late March or early April, Jeff Plackis of Trout Unlimited will talk to us about the Oyster Bay Cold Spring Harbor watersheds before leading us out for an informative walk at Shu Swamp.

We have adopted a one-mile stretch of Pulaski Road in Huntington, and are conducting monthly clean-ups. (See article on page 2.)

We have many other ideas up our sleeves; keep your eyes open as they materialize!

November Program

**Wednesday, November 11
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

***Conserving Wildlife Against the Odds: A New
"Just-so" Tale from Post-Kipling's India***

In this program Dr. Graham Cox will talk about national park management in southwest India, a UN biosphere reserve and a region at the top of the global list of endangered habitats. Using photos taken on a trip in January 2008, and a short DVD produced by the staff of the Nagarhole Park, you will get to see the challenges of conserving nature while providing for the needs of a diverse and growing native population. Graham Cox is Open Space and Sustainable Forest Program Coordinator for Audubon New York.

Adopt a Highway

by Charlotte Miska

Have you seen the blue and white signs along Pulaski Road? There are two: one near the intersection with Oakwood Road and the other approximately one mile west at the intersection with Woodbury Road. This is the area parallel to Wicks Farm. These signs proudly announce that Huntington Audubon has adopted this stretch of road as part of Suffolk County's Adopt-a-Highway program. That means HAS has a two-year contract with Suffolk County to conduct a clean-up along the highway once a month from April through December and at least once during the remaining winter months. The county provides safety vests, heavy-duty work gloves, garbage pickers, safety cones, and plastic bags. HAS provides the people to pick up the garbage.

Our first clean-up was held on Sunday, August 30th. Volunteers Cathy Fitts, Ginger Mahoney, Stella Miller, and Charlotte Miska met our Adopt-a-Highway coordinator Simone DaRos at 7:30 AM across from the entrance to Wicks Farm. We split into two teams, each working one side of the road. We filled 10 bags with items that included plastic bottles, aluminum cans, glass bottles, rags, coffee cups, cigarette butts, and assorted pieces of plastic. We worked hard and had fun too. We were left with the satisfaction that we were making a difference in creating a cleaner environment and a sense of community in that we are part of a not only a county program but part of a nationwide activity.

The Suffolk County Highway Department was quick to pick up the garbage bags that we had left behind and they even picked up a huge piece of cardboard that mysteriously blew in on Monday. Our stretch of Pulaski really looks cared for now.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the clean-ups, contact Simone DaRos (516-987-7136).

Birds & Birding – The Basics & Beyond

Did you know that birds can detect magnetic fields or that a Blue Jay's feather is not really blue? Or that birds breathe differently than people and that some birds can catch prey in complete darkness? Do you want to know why some birds eat clay? Want to know effective steps you can take to help birds? If these questions pique your curiosity and you want to deepen your understanding and appreciation of birds, the Huntington Audubon Society encourages you to participate in this three-part monthly series of workshops given by John Turner, which will begin in February 2010. Please check our website, Facebook page, and next *Killdeer* for details.

The mission of the Huntington Audubon Society is to increase community awareness about the environment and to encourage others to enjoy and protect birds and other wildlife in their natural habitats.



killdeer

is the newsletter of the

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

a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is published five times a year.

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Important Telephone Numbers

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.huntingtonaudubon.org

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

HAS's Youth Outreach Committee Visits Senior Center

by Brent Bomkamp, age 16

On August 27, 2009, Huntington Audubon's Youth Outreach Committee (YOC) gave a presentation to the Comprehensive Care Management Center (CCM) of Amityville, housed in the Convent of the Sisters of St. Dominic. Earlier in the year, several birdfeeders were constructed by local cub scouts at a special workshop given by the YOC. Each scout kept the feeder that they had built, and the extra feeders were donated to the CCM.

The presentation featured a short film made in honor of The National Audubon Society's 100th anniversary, and afterwards several rounds of bird bingo were played with the sisters. The movie depicted a few of the many conservation initiatives which Audubon has spearheaded over its many years of existence, from the Migratory Bird Treaty to the banning of DDT. All the sisters enjoyed the movie and a copy was donated to the center.

Bird bingo was also a hit; each sister received her own card which depicted birds instead of the typical numbers usually found on a bingo board. Whenever a bird was drawn, a member of the YOC would give a brief description of the species and some interesting facts about it. As prizes, several Audubon singing stuffed birds, a Kaufmann Field Guide, and a framed Guy Coleach print were given out. There were 16 prizes, so most of the sisters were able to win. They were thrilled with the singing Audubon birds, and the room was filled with the sound of birdsong afterwards. The two sisters who won the grand prizes were especially pleased. Sister Rose Michael and Sister Grace, 92 and 97 respectively, were especially grateful, and both expressed their hope that the YOC will return in the near future, which they plan to do in the late fall. The YOC consists of HAS President, Stella Miller, and three teenaged members: Brent Bomkamp, Vinny Pellegrino, and Brendan Fogarty.

HAS Promotes Birding for the Younger Crowd

by Brendan Fogarty, age 16

Birding, or bird watching as many know it, is a diverse hobby. Near one end of the spectrum, some people find pleasure in seeing colorful avian visitors to their birdfeeders. Near the other, some people meticulously count the chirps they hear from invisible birds migrating at night for the benefit of science. Between the two extremes fall millions of people worldwide who take some sort of interest in observing birds. Although stereotyped as a blithe pastime for retirees, with so many people interested in birds, it is not surprising that there is a strong population of birders in their teens or younger.

The Huntington Audubon Society's Youth Outreach Committee is dedicated to exposing young people to the natural world's beauty and mystery, as well as encouraging budding naturalists to become more active in their community. We believe that spending some quality time with nature lovers their own age will give kids a better perception of our fragile environment, if not ignite a new and rewarding passion.

With that in mind through the end of the year, the Huntington Audubon Society is offering a complimentary first year of membership to any new member aged between 11 and 18 years. This membership includes a subscription to the chapter's newsletter, the *Killdeer*, and open access to all programs and field trips offered. In the last category, we will be offering a brand-new suite of field trips open only for youth members and their guardians. The field trips began this autumn, and we are proud to announce the very first was held on September 13th at Jones Beach and the Robert Moses Hawk Watch. **Look for our next trip on November 21st to Montauk Point.** Come join us!



Visit us on the web
www.huntingtonaudubon.org

December Program

Wednesday, December 9
 Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

Hyenas: Nature's Most Misunderstood Predators with Patrick Thomas, PhD

Hyenas have a bad rap in the world of predators. Considered lowly scavengers, most people do not realize that they are one of the top predators in Africa and its most common large carnivore. Living in groups called "clans" in a society where the females are dominant over the male, the hyena is a skilled hunter who is about as opportunistic as they come, hence their reputation for scavenging. We will learn the natural history of the three species of this carnivore, about the human/hyena conflicts that have long occurred, and the newest residents of the Bronx Zoo's Wild Africa exhibit - two spotted hyenas. Dr. Thomas has been with the Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) Bronx Zoo's Mammal Department since 1979. He is currently the general curator and is responsible for supervising the care and management of over 4,000 animals from nearly 500 species.

Camp Chiricahua: A Thank You to HAS

by Vinny Pellegrino, age 16



After I received the news that Huntington Audubon Society would be sending me to Camp Chiricahua in Arizona for two weeks on scholarship, I basically fainted. Me, a teenaged birder, attending a camp all about birding, raking in lifers (not at all what it's all about!), and appreciating the natural

world in one of the most biologically rich parts of the continental US, was an opportunity I accepted without hesitation. I had heard such great reports from previous year's campers about all the adventures they went on. Numerous thoughts raced through my head. What will the other campers be like? What birds will I see? I knew deep down this was going to be one heck of a journey. Upon telling my dad about this amazing, generous gift, he immediately was filled with pride. However, he warned me not to tell my mother. A 16-year old going off in the middle of desolate deserts for two weeks with no communication whatsoever for nine out of those thirteen days spells disaster for the mother's sanity. After she realized how important it would be to me, she soon accepted the fact that I was going, even though it was the morning before I left!

Thankfully for her, I flew with a fellow camper who immediately greeted me and we sat for hours on the plane talking about our addicting hobby. Once we landed, our adventure began. We met the other campers and the camp counselors, then departed for our motel. Immediately upon arriving at the motel, we had our binoculars out. We birded the grounds, adding common western birds for the rest of the afternoon before departing for dinner. It was a surprise to the counselors that we discovered a Rufous-winged Sparrow out in the dirt lot adjacent to our motel. For the next couple of days we explored the various canyons, deserts, and water treatments adding Arizona specialties such as Harris's Hawk, Whiskered Screech-Owl, White-eared Hummingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Elegant Trogon, Crissal Thrasher, and Arizona Woodpecker. Every night we went herping and owling. We all wore headlamps to look for eyeshine. We were given several memorable views of harder to find birds such as an Elf Owl attempting to bring a large mouse in its beak to its mate, Lesser Nighthawk, and Common Poorwill, as well as the myriad of insects and arachnids. Fist-sized tarantulas, vinegaroons, and scorpions were abundant with one scorpion actually burrowing underneath my own tent! Mammal sightings also did not disappoint with striped skunks invading our camp sites, bobcats roaming the slopes, coyotes ripping apart an animal outside my window in the San Pedro River Inn, javelinas, and black-tailed jackrabbits. And of course there were plenty of

rattlesnakes. On more than one occasion did a fellow camper or the counselor himself step on a well camouflaged rattler.

The greatest thrill I experienced (which you are all probably waiting for) was hiking in Miller Canyon and hearing a bird foreign to camp counselors Dave Jasper and Robert Day, who have been running the camp for 18 years. The mystery bird kept singing, tantalizing us as he furtively traveled from one thick stand of conifers to the next. We searched endlessly for the mystery bird. We listened to playbacks of a sample of Mexican birds that were possibilities. Luckily the bird sang nonstop allowing us to match the recording on the iphone to the real bird. We stared for movement when we played back the song. In amazement, a Brown-backed Solitaire flew to a snag and blurted out its ridiculous flute-like melody. Cameras clicked like machine guns, recordings were taken, and we campers hugged for joy. All of Camp Chiricahua jumped for joy. That was definitely the cherry on top of this sundae. The experience was thrilling and mind boggling. The feeling of being in a dead silent forest with an unexpected rich but eerie vocalization was spectacular. It was determined to be the first ABA record of this species.

Nothing after that hike seemed to matter for the campers so we left the camp three days early. NOT!!! We were staying to discover another ABA record. We were ecstatic for the rest of the trip and it seemed to be the only topic discussed during all the dinners. After sending in the rare bird report, we relaxed, splashed around in the pool, and went birding for the last time before our departures. On our last hike we got excellent views of birds you typically don't get very good looks at including Gray Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Spotted Owls directly above us, Beryline Hummingbird, Sinaloa Wren, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Flame-colored Tanager, Black-chinned Sparrow, Varied Bunting, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and Yellow-breasted Chats galore.

The trip was awesome. It was a journey that I will remember forever. And when I think about this memory, I will know it was only through Huntington Audubon's generous scholarship that it was possible. I thank you for granting me a trip of a lifetime.

Welcome Debbie Martin

Debbie Martin has taken over HAS publicity duties. A frequent participant on our field trips, Debbie birds several times a week with different groups, having become an avid birder since her retirement as an elementary school principal a few years ago. She also very generously donated her \$500 winnings of our 2009 Birdathon raffle to our Youth Outreach Committee. We look forward to working and birding with her.

A Bird's Eye View with Stella

by Stella Miller



Life List, by Olivia Gentile is the story of a woman named Phoebe Schletsinger, who, after a devastating cancer diagnosis, was determined to see as many species of birds in the world as she could. But this book is much more than just a narrative of her life. It also asks the questions: at what point does passion become obsession? At what point do we stop enjoying the experience in pursuit of the goal, and is it ever worth it to allow relationships to suffer in our quest to fulfill our dreams and passion? This book also reminds the reader that life is short and anyone of us, at any time, could suddenly be told we have only limited time left.

Phoebe was a housewife, living a life in which she felt seriously miscast. Stifled in the traditional married lifestyle of the time, she found salvation in birding. A friend brought to her attention a Blackburnian Warbler and from that moment on, Phoebe was hooked. This Blackburnian Warbler was Phoebe's trigger bird and her eyes were opened up to a whole new world, a world to which she could escape the banality of her everyday existence. She joined local birding clubs and might have lived the rest of her life out as "just" an avid birder. However fate had a different plan for Phoebe. At the age of 49 she was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given just about a year to live. Therein began the obsession. Determined to see as many species of birds as she could before she died, Phoebe focused on her quest with steely determination and grit. Traveling the world (she was lucky enough to have a sizable inheritance from her wealthy ad agency father), Phoebe defied the doctor's dire prediction and birded another 18 years. Each passing year, each subsequent battle with the recurring cancer, fired her up with even more determination. Missed family funerals and weddings, along with the near destruction of her marriage, did not slow her down. Even the brutal gang rape she endured while on an expedition did not cause her to skip a beat. With the characteristic stoicism of some rape victims, she brushed the incident under the proverbial rug and carried on.

Ms. Gentile brings a fresh perspective to the world of birding, and it is amusing to read her explanations of lingo that most birders consider part of their everyday language. She neither judges nor places Phoebe on a pedestal; instead she narrates this fascinating woman's life in a matter of fact manner, leaving it up to the reader to decide if it was all worth it.

For Phoebe, being the first person in the world to see 8,000 birds was absolutely worth it. Worth the heartache, the physical pain, the fractured family relationships. Her quest defined her as a person, and perhaps gave her the will to

live on. Or, maybe it was just sheer luck that she lived on for so many more years. Without a doubt, it was the fire that lit her from within and altered her life forever.

We are all living on borrowed time. (Phoebe's own memoir is called *Birding on Borrowed Time*.) After reading this book I reflected on my own life, my own dreams and goals. If I was given a death sentence tomorrow, would I regret the things I haven't done? It helped me to recognize my own restless spirit and I felt a kindred spirit in Phoebe. We all want a life well lived. It is up to us to define what that means to us as individuals. Abe Lincoln said it best, "It is not the years in your life, but the life in your years." I think Phoebe reached out, grabbed life by the horns and took it home in a spectacular manner. In the end, it wasn't cancer that took Phoebe's life. It was a vehicular accident while she was on a birding expedition. Phoebe died on her own terms, doing what she loved. In the end, she died with her boots on. Or, in this case, her binoculars.

I enjoyed this book immensely and highly recommend it to non-birders and birders alike. I also recommend a visit to the book's website oliviagentile.com. The introduction is filled with gorgeous bird illustrations with such fun music that I find myself viewing it over and over!



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) **Make check payable to National Audubon**
- Huntington 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 Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743-073



MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and activities of the Huntington Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, meeting Board members, and perusing the printed materials available. We're doing this to be sure the program can start promptly at 7:30 and end early enough for us all to exit the building by its 9:00 PM closing hour. Our cooperation and compliance will allow the library staff to close the gate on schedule.

November 2009

Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Conserving Wildlife Against the Odds: A New “Just-so” Tale from Post-Kipling’s India* with Graham Cox, PhD. In this program Dr. Cox will talk about national park management in southwest India, a UN biosphere reserve and a region at the top of the global list of endangered habitats. Using photos taken on a trip in January 2008, and a short DVD produced by the staff of the Nagarhole Park, you will get to see the challenges of conserving nature while providing for the needs of a diverse and growing native population. Graham Cox is Open Space and Sustainable Forest Program Coordinator for Audubon New York.

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

Monday, November 30 – Deadline for the January - February *Killdeer*.

December 2009

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Hyenas: Nature’s Most Misunderstood Predators* with Patrick Thomas, PhD. Hyenas have a bad rap in the world of predators. Considered lowly scavengers, most people do not realize that they are one of the top predators in Africa and its most common large carnivore. Living in groups called “clans” in a society where the females are dominant over the male, the hyena is a skilled hunter who is about as opportunistic as they come, hence their reputation for scavenging. We will learn the natural history of the three species of this carnivore, about the human/hyena conflicts that have long occurred, and the newest residents of the Bronx Zoo’s Wild Africa exhibit - two spotted hyenas. Dr. Thomas has been with the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) Bronx Zoo’s Mammal Department since 1979. He is currently the general curator and is responsible for supervising the care and management of over 4,000 animals from nearly 500 species.

NOTE: There is no Board of Directors meeting in December.

January 2010

Wednesday, January 13 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *The Ecology of Saw-whets in Southeastern NY* with Trudy Battaly and Drew Panko. Saw-whet Owls, the smallest owls in the northeast, are found in our region during fall and winter. Where do they come from? How long do they stay? Will they come back next year? Do they ever stay to breed? Drew and Trudy have some very interesting encounters to share with you, some answers, and many more questions about these wonderful creatures.

Wednesday, January 20, 7:30 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library

Birders’ Box

The September 13, Jones Beach and Robert Moses Hawk Watch trip led by Brendan Fogarty was our first ever young birder’s field trip. 46 species were seen including 3 new to our year’s list: Baird’s Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Royal Tern. Other notable birds were Cooper’s Hawk, Merlin, Oystercatcher, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Black Skimmer, Least Sandpiper, Baltimore Oriole, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Towhee, Tree Swallows, and Warblers: Magnolia, Blackpoll, and Northern Waterthrush

The September 19 field trip to Jamaica Bay was enjoyed by 15 people. Then 3 people continued to the Greenwich Hawk Watch. Species total for the day was 65, with only one not yet seen on our trips, a Black Swan which is by consensus considered an escapee. The day’s list includes Snow Goose, Northern Flicker, Glossy Ibis, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwings, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Broad Winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Bald Eagle (in Greenwich). Warblers included: American Redstart, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Black and White, Palm, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 182.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Outdoor activities, such as birding and hiking with a group, are a wonderful way to share your interests with like-minded people to learn more about birds and nature, and to enjoy many preserves and natural areas. Newcomers are most welcome. Binoculars and field guides are strongly advised, but leaders usually have some field guides to share. Field trips begin between 8:00 and 9:00 AM at the site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. During spring migration, some field trips may begin earlier. That will be clear in the trip announcement. Directions to the site are published below and on our website. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. Contact the trip leader for details. The trip leader is not responsible for arranging carpools, but will provide names of others who are interested in carpooling. Registration is necessary. Call the trip leader by 9:00 PM Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00 PM Friday for a Sunday trip. Be sure to leave your phone number. You may participate if you didn't register, but we will not be able to notify you of any changes or cancellations without your phone number. Dress for the weather realizing you'll be outdoors for long periods of time. Bring water and if the trip is for a full day, bring a bag lunch. Rain or temperature below 20° F cancels. For the comfort and safety of all participants there is no smoking on field trips.

November 2009

Saturday, November 21, 9:30 AM – All day trip to Montauk Point for Young Birders. Winter waterfowl abound including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks. This trip is for kids 11-18 and their parents. Leaders: Brent Bomkamp and Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

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

Sunday, November 22, 9:30 AM – All day trip to Montauk Point for Young at Heart Birders. See the description and travel directions above. Leader: Sharon Brody. Call 516-433-5590 to register.

December 2009

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 AM – Winter Waterfowl Walk. Long Island can be one of the best places in the country to watch winter waterfowl with as many as three dozen species making an appearance during the colder months on the Island's many sheltered ponds, lakes, bays and harbors as well as the open waters of LI Sound. Join us for a fun day to see as many of these species as possible and learn about their interesting life histories. We will meet at Upland's Farm Preserve. Leaders: John Turner and Stella Miller. Call 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: From the LIE, take Exit 45 (Woodbury-Manetto Hill exit) and bear right at the end of the exit ramp onto Manetto Hill Road. Go 0.2 mile and turn right onto Woodbury Road. Proceed 3.4 miles and turn left onto Harbor Road (Route 108). Go 1.6 miles and turn right uphill onto Lawrence Hill Road. Proceed 0.4 miles and turn right into the Uplands Farm entrance. Proceed to the end of the split rail fence and turn left just before the barn. Park in the parking area or beside it in the grassy field.

Saturday, December 12, 9:30 AM – Field trip for families to Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge.

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 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. Leaders: Stella Miller and Brent Bomkamp. Call 516-695-0763 to register. Registration is a must.

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.

Saturday, December 19 – 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 US. All members are encouraged to participate, but it is very important that as many experienced birders as possible join the count. Contact Bill Reeves at 631-266-4309. He will confirm the time and place. Compilation supper will be held at Muttontown Preserve at 5:00 PM.

January 2010

Saturday, January 16 – Biologist Mike Bottini will present program at the Cold Spring Harbor Library on River Otters of Long Island, followed by a walk at Upper Francis Pond Preserve to look for otter signs. Look for details and time in next the *Killdeer*.

Saturday, January 30 – Joint Owl Prowl with Hudson River Audubon at Pelham Bay. Look for details in next *Killdeer*.



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

November – December 2009

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New Board Member Announcement! by Stella Miller



We are proud to announce that John Turner has joined the Huntington Audubon Society's Board of Directors. John Turner is probably a familiar name to many of you. He is the Director of the Division of Environmental Protection for the town of Brookhaven. Previously, he served as

Director of Conservation Programs for the Long Island Chapters of The Nature Conservancy. Prior to this position, he was Legislative Director of the New York State Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of New York State and Long Island, chaired by Assembly member Tom DiNapoli. From 1986 to 1992 he served as Director of the Division of Natural Resources in the Suffolk County Parks Department and before this position he served as Northeastern Field Representative to Defenders of Wildlife.

John is a co-founder of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and served on its board for 26 years. John writes on a variety of environmental issues having authored several dozen articles that have appeared in environmental and natural history magazines including *Defenders*, *Birder's World*, *The Conservationist*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. He is the author of two books: *Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Nature Guide to Long Island* and a children's book on the water cycle entitled *Waylon's Wandering Waterdrop*.

He also served as a contributing editor to the Long Island Forum. The second edition of *Exploring the Other Island* is due out around December.

He also serves as an adjunct professor of Ornithology in the Natural Sciences Department at SUNY-Stony Brook Southampton College and is an interpretive specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

We are honored and excited to have John join our board and we look forward to his vast knowledge and experience in the field of conservation.

Christmas Bird Count

Do you want a break from the hectic holiday rush, have a lot of fun, and participate in the biggest citizen science project in the world? Then come join us for the **110th Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** on **Saturday, December 19th**. HAS along with North Shore Audubon covers northern Nassau County. The CBC has provided a database on bird population trends that is essential to understanding how bird populations are doing and the conservation efforts needed to protect them. To join the count, call Bill Reeves (631-266-4309). If you can't spend the whole day, come for part of it. A compilation supper will be held at Muttontown Preserve where each group's numbers are recorded. Come enjoy some good food provided by HAS, the camaraderie of your fellow birders, and hear the results of each group's count. There are always some interesting surprises.