

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Newsletter

February, March, April 2017
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Citizen Science: How You Can Help Birds

Brendan Fogarty

Citizen Science is the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists. The best thing? Anyone can be a citizen scientist!

I am always birding, and I have always wanted to make my bird sightings count for something more than just my own records. In 2007, I was thrilled to discover eBird, a project from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in which birders of all skill levels can enter their sightings. My sightings were instantly shared, and I could explore other people's sightings using neat interactive graphs. As more people joined eBird, the website turned into an invaluable reference for finding birds. eBird can tell you exactly which pond in Centerport Canvasbacks favor. eBird can tell you that even though Carolina Chickadee is a common feeder bird just across New York Harbor in New Jersey, it has never been seen on Long Island. Just this year, I looked at sightings of Worm-eating Warblers to see exactly when they migrate south. Although they are a scarce migrant on Long Island, eBird data suggested the middle of August was the best bet to see one, and on my first attempt I found one in minutes.

The best part of eBird is that the data is not only useful to observers, but also to scientists. Distinguishing the signal from the noise is a goal of any science experiment, and certainty in a conclusion is proportional to the number of data points; more data allows hypotheses to be proven. Even though eBird only asks for the basics (species seen and your birding effort), the sum of these data points show trends in population ecology and migration on a scale that no single experiment could ever replicate. Instead, data is shared by a citizen army. It is an elegant solution that is already enabling actual conservation solutions.

In the dry central valley of California, almost all ponds and marshes have been converted to agricultural land. Unfortunately, the growing seasons for water-grown crops such as rice does not match the arrival of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Rather, when the migrants begin passing through in late winter, many fields are intentionally drained to prepare for the next growing season.



In 2014, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology partnered with the Nature Conservancy for a project called BirdReturns to rectify this mismatch. The project reimbursed farmers to keep their fields flooded longer, essentially renting temporary wetland habitat. These were not random fields, however; but very specific fields which were identified through hundreds of thousands of observations from local birders. In the end, the most valuable 10,000 acres were flooded, and the shore-

birds noticed. As spring migration began, these areas had concentrations of birds ten times higher than anywhere else around. Not only did BirdReturns work for the migrants, but also for the resident landowners. And beyond that, valley birders got to enjoy their local birds while providing scientists with crucial data. The Cornell Lab has done several new eBird-based conservation initiatives since BirdReturns began.

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The Northern pintail, pictured above, a winter visitor to Long Island, is a species impacted by agriculture in California.

Don't Miss Out!

Beginning with our Summer 2017 issue we will no longer send a hard copy of our newsletter unless requested. We are making the switch to an electronic newsletter to cut down on costs and put your membership and donor dollars to better use in order to make a more direct conservation impact.

If you would still like to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter, please call us at **516-695-0763**. If you're not already signed up on our e-mail list, please do so on our website or send your full name and email address to **hobaudubon@gmail.com**. Thank you for understanding the need to put funds where they will have the most impact as it pertains to our mission of protecting wildlife and preserving habitat!

About our cover bird:

Perhaps one of our most common backyard birds, the northern cardinal is also one of our most beautiful...so flashy that it never fails to stop observers dead in our tracks to take a look-check out a bright red male cardinal on a snowy branch on a grey day and you cannot help but marvel at its magnificence. The females are no slouches either...gorgeous golden brown edged with red. Attract these brilliant birds to your yard with black oil sunflower seed in a hopper feeder or the ground.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, Inc.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon works to protect wildlife and preserve habitat through conservation action, advocacy, education and impactful partnerships.

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This issue: Stella Miller, Brendan Fogarty, Sonia Garrido

Bird Photography: Lloyd Spitalnik and Stella Miller unless otherwise noted

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President's Message



It is New Years Eve as I write this and I cannot help but think about what a year it has been. The year 2016 was one that tested our strength, endurance and will. There were losses - and there was heartbreak. The upcoming year promises to be a challenge for those of us that care about wildlife and wild places, but it is important to remember that no matter the circumstances, respect and kindness should be the rule and not the exception.

Be kind to everyone, even those with differing views. We each have the capacity and ability to make the world a better place, and we have the strength, if we can just dig deep enough to find it, to make our own world a better place. Even in the darkest of times, we need to grab on to whatever light we can find and hold on, because that is what will get us through. We cannot be ruled by fear and anger and we can never, ever, let our own light within wither and fade.

Fight for what you believe is right. Be strong, be firm. But do it with dignity, grace and respect. We need to be the example...not just to others, but to ourselves. Sometimes it gets too tough, and we want to give up. Our dreams feel as though they have been shattered. That, my friends, is where nature comes in.

I am leaving you with this wonderful poem by Wendell Berry. When life seems overwhelming take a walk in the woods, meander a seashore, stroll in a grassland or climb a mountain. Bask in the beauty that surrounds you and let nature revitalize, restore and invigorate you. I promise, you'll feel like a new person!

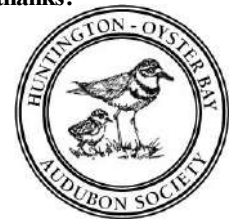
When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not take their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world,
and am free.

Happy New Year everyone! May your year be filled with moments in nature that bring you peace, joy and beauty.

Membership is just \$20 per year. Please join or renew today to support our conservation, advocacy and educational programs and projects. Your membership allows us to count your voice as we advocate for wildlife and habitat, including issues on a local, regional, national and global level. **We truly appreciate it and extend our heartfelt thanks!**

Membership-\$20 _____
I wish to make an additional donation of _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Would you like to receive alerts and notices? email _____



Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
PO Box 735
Huntington, New York 11743

Birdseed Sale

Sharon Brody

Our annual birdseed sale is Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society's largest fundraiser. This year we again had a successful sale. **Thank you to all of our loyal customers who bought seed and Christmas ornaments.** A special thanks goes to those of you who sent in additional donations for our conservation and education efforts. Our hard working volunteers deserve an extra pat on the back. Chuck Bishop, Marc Brody, Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Dave Papayanopulos, Vinnie Schiappa, and Marty Wenz worked tirelessly loading seed bags into our customers' cars. In the lobby of Huntington High School, Cathy Fitts, Charlotte Miska, and Rosemarie Papayanopulos helped process orders and sell ornaments. A special thanks, as always, goes to Cathy Fitts for her administrative work. A big kiss goes to my husband, Marc, for all the help with the orders, for being my go-for, and for putting up with my craziness during birdseed sale time. And of course, thank you to **Huntington High School**, who generously allow us to hold our sale each year. Thanks again to all.

Editors Note: The biggest thank you of all goes to Sharon, who has, for many years, worked tirelessly to make this event a success!

Underhill Preserve Update

Stella Miller



As of this writing, volunteers have spent over 30 hours (for a total of 156 volunteer hours) at Underhill Preserve since November—clearing existing trails, creating new ones and getting a head start on the removal of multiflora rose and autumn olive. The NYSDEC plans to begin a mechanical restoration project on the lower parcel, while the goats (and humans!) will continue to work in the upper grassland.

Some of our plans for 2017 include the installation of bluebird, wood duck and kestrel nest boxes as well as the start of a multi-year breeding bird banding project (more on that in the next column). We anticipate that the preserve will be open to the public, on a limited basis, within the next couple years and in the meantime, we will continue our efforts to restore important bird habitat.

Bird Banding Project at Underhill

Coby Klein

This spring HOBAS is planning to launch a research project at Underhill Preserve in Jericho. The object of the project is to track the progress of grassland restoration efforts in the Preserve by banding breeding birds near the restoration zones. Birds will be caught by placing mist nets in strategic locations around these zones. After being removed from the nets the birds will have lightweight aluminum bands placed on their legs and a series of measurements will be taken. The whole process lasts just a few minutes. The data collected from these birds will allow us to document if the restored areas are attracting grassland species—such as field sparrows and bluebirds—as intended or if the development of an assisted living facility abutting the preserve has any negative impact on breeding populations. We can also compare different restoration methods. One plot is being restored by grazing goats and human hands while another will be by heavy machinery.

All bird banders must have federal and state permits but there is still a citizen science component to any bird banding project. If you encounter a bird, alive or dead, that is wearing a band, you can report the number to the Bird Banding Lab, the federal agency that oversees all bird banding projects in the US, on their website, <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>.

I have reported dozens of band numbers to the BBL myself and it's always fascinating to see where the bird originated. I once reported banded Canada geese at Caumsett State Park in Lloyd Harbor which had traveled all the way here from Greenland! Keep your eyes open, folks, you just may stumble upon an important find!

Editors Note: the banding equipment will cost approximately \$2000. If you would like to contribute to this project, please let us know. Donors who give at the \$250 and above level will be invited for a special tour of Underhill and the banding station.



Juvenile red-headed woodpecker at Underhill Preserve, one of two documented at Underhill this winter. Photo by Brendan Fogarty

Programs and Field Trips-February, March & April 2017

Nature programs, field trips and activities are open to members and nonmembers alike, unless otherwise noted.

Programs, unless otherwise specified, are held at the Cold Spring Harbor Library—95 Harbor Road (Route 25A). Refreshments are at 7 and program begins at 7:20 (unless otherwise noted). Registration is not required. Please visit our website for more information and speakers' bios. We invite you to join us on a **field trip!** Newcomers are welcome. **Registration is necessary.** Call the trip leader by 9:00pm Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00pm Friday for a Sunday trip. Call the leader if in doubt about the weather. Don't forget to bring binoculars and proper clothing and shoes! For the comfort and safety of all participants, please refrain from wearing perfume or smoking on field trips.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FEBRUARY & MARCH PROGRAMS ARE A WEEK LATER THAN USUAL

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 12, Field Trip Sunken Meadow In Winter-9am

We will investigate the trails, ponds, and seashore to find wintering waterfowl and other birds. **Leader:** Coby Klein
Registration: 585-880-0915. **Directions:** Take Sunken Meadow Parkway north to the end. Meet in the southwest corner of the main parking lot

Wednesday, February 15, Nature Program Woodpeckers, Head Bangers of the Avian World

How many times have you looked out your window at a woodpecker and wondered to yourself, "How the heck do they do that without giving themselves a concussion?" Tonight, that question and others will be answered as life-long birder and HOBAS board member **Brendan Fogarty** discusses the natural history of this beautiful family of birds.

MARCH

Sunday, March 5, Field Trip Members Only! Underhill Preserve Ramble-8am

Special trip for members only! Join us today as we ramble about this hidden gem. Underhill Preserve is not yet open to the public and access is strictly limited. Today, you will learn about our restoration efforts as we check out the late winter birdlife and look for possible rarities! **Leaders:** Stella Miller and Coby Klein. **Registration Necessary, Group Size Limited to 15:** 516-695-0763 or hobaudubon@gmail.com
Directions: Due to the preserve's restricted access status, group will meet in front of the Starbucks in Jericho (Whole Foods shopping center) and we will car pool from there. **Rain date:** March 19.

Wednesday, March 15, Nature Program Documentary: Hometown Habitat

Hometown Habitat is a 90-minute environmental, education documentary focused on showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Entomologist Doug Tallamy, whose research, books, and lectures on the misuse of non-native plants in landscaping, sound the alarm about habitat and species loss provides the narrative thread throughout Hometown Habitat. ...*continued next column*

Hometown Habitat continued...

The message: "We can change the notion that humans are here and nature is some place else. It doesn't have to, and shouldn't be that way." Each individual has the power to conserve resources, restore habitat for wildlife and bring beauty to their patch of earth. Join us tonight to discover how you can bring nature home! **NOTE: FILM BEGINS at 7pm SHARP**

Saturday, March 25, Field Trip Fuchs Pond-8am

Fuch's Pond is one the favorite watering holes of the Crab Meadow Watershed. We'll spend time exploring the woods for lingering winter birds like Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and Rusty Blackbird. We will also look for Wood Duck and other waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, and the first amphibians and plants emerging from the thaw. **Leader: Brendan Fogarty.**
Registration Necessary, Group Size Limited to 15: 516-782-0293 **Directions:** 21 Norwood Road. Take 25-A/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 right on the left.

April

Wednesday, April 12, Nature Program Members Only Trip! Shu Swamp: A Northshore Gem

Shu Swamp Preserve in Mill Neck, has long been popular with hikers, birders and nature lovers. This 60-acre jewel of the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary system of preserves is only one component of the larger Beaver Brook Watershed and is home to numerous wetland and upland species, including native brook trout, muskrat, river otter, and outstanding populations of birds and plants. Our speaker this evening, **Lois Lindberg**, will highlight the area's beauty and biodiversity, especially highlighting the wildflowers and other flora of this special place.

Sunday, April 23, Field Trip Muttontown Preserve-Early Spring Exploration-9am

Today we will be looking for early migrants to our area. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. **Registration:** 631-885-1881 or aveblue@gmail.com. **Directions:** Meet in the parking lot off of Muttontown Lane, which is on the south side of Route 25A, just west of Route 106 in East Norwich. Follow Muttontown Lane to the end.

Saturday, April 29, Field Trip Members Only! Shu Swamp Ramble-8am

This trip will be led by an outstanding naturalist and while we will focus on the plant life of the preserve (spring ephemeral wildflowers should be in bloom!) we will be keeping an eye out for birds. **Leader:** Lois Lindbergh. **Registration a MUST, Group Size Limited to 15:** 516-695-0763.

Directions: From Route 25A in East Norwich, take Route 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left on to Lexington Ave then left on to West Main Street. At the Mill Pond (on the left), bear to the right as if to go to Bayville. At first traffic light (water will be on your right) make a left onto Cleft Road. Take Cleft Road to Frost Mill Road, make a left. (If you wind up on the causeway going over Beaver Dam, you have gone too far.) Shu Swamp will be on your right after you go under the train trestle. **Do NOT use your GPS.** You'll end up in the wrong place.

(Citizen Science...continued from page 1)

Visit ebird.org for more information and to submit your own sightings. Even in Nassau and Suffolk, every single sighting you share counts.

Since 1998, Audubon has partnered with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** (or GBBC). Backyard bird sightings are always important, but once a year the GBBC rallies the millions of bird lovers across the country to their backyard feeders for a unique coordinated counting effort.

Anyone can participate by submitting sightings online from a 15 minute or longer observation period during the selected Count weekend. In 2017, the Count period will begin Friday February 17th and continue through Monday the 20th. In 2016, over 160,000 people submitted their sightings over a single weekend. This record number of observations painted the most extensive and accurate picture of the ever-changing trends of North American birds.

Even more dedicated backyard birding fans can participate in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **Project FeederWatch**. Like the GBBC, participants share their sightings from home, but they sign up to participate throughout the entire winter.

Project FeederWatch has over 20,000 participants who have been sharing sightings since the late 80's. Unlike the GBBC, Project FeederWatch shows trends of birds from the same locations repeatedly throughout the winter. This helps reveal patterns for shyer species that might be missed on the GBBC, such as Painted Buntings in the south. In fact, Project FeederWatch identified a decline in Painted Buntings since the project's inception. Florida has now taken action to study and protect the beautiful buntings thanks in part to this citizen science project. Visit feederwatch.org to find out more and order a backyard birding kit.

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Whether you enjoy your backyard birds once a year or you spend all your days searching the backcountry for birds, your sightings can be more than just memories. Every time you report a bird, a scientist will be able to understand that species a little better. Citizen science has allowed us unprecedented knowledge of our favorite birds, and more importantly, how to protect them.

Editor's Note: Other citizen science projects include FrogWatch, Christmas Bird Count, Monarch Butterfly Journey North, NestWatch and Hummingbirds at Home.

Join the HOBAS Family

Our incredible volunteers are the very heart and soul of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon, but as we grow and expand our conservation initiatives, we also need to grow our chapter capacity.

We are currently looking for a bookkeeper (who will assume the role of Treasurer on the board). If you know any retired accountants that are looking to keep busy, while helping to protect wildlife, please send them our way. For this particular position, references and resumes will be required.

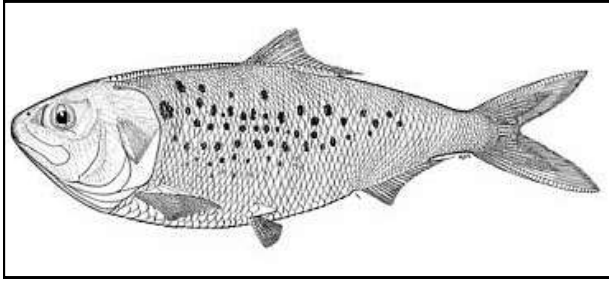
We are also looking to expand kids' programming. Are you a retired educator (or a current one!) passionate about the natural world? Welcome!!! Our current educators are already stretched thin and we need to add to our ranks.

You can help with administrative work...sending our monthly renewals, or doing research. Get involved with our conservation work. Your role can be as expansive or limited as you would like. Field trip leaders are definitely always welcome...you don't even have to be a birder! We would love to host general naturalist walks, or focused trips such botany walks. Call 516-695-0763 or email hobaudubon@gmail.com if interested. We would love to chat with you about how you can get involved!



Menhaden, the Most Important Fish in the Sea

Stella Miller



HOBAS has been an active member of the Herring Alliance for several years, speaking out on behalf of forage fish through letters of support and action alerts.

On December 15, 2016, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission held a hearing with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation seeking public comment on the future of menhaden management. HOBAS representatives attended this hearing to advocate for sustainable menhaden management that benefits the entire ecosystem.

Menhaden are critical to the diet of most predator fish including striped bass, swordfish, tuna, bluefish and flounder, all species commercially fished by humans. They are also an important component of the diet of marine mammals such as porpoises and whales and, birds such as northern gannets, cormorants, ospreys, pelicans and, bald eagles.

Since being placed on the Endangered Species List in the early 1970's due to the effects of DDT, among other threats, the bald eagle has made a slow, but steady comeback, and was removed from the List in 2007. Right here on Long Island we have documented the return of the bald eagle, due in no small part to the presence of menhaden. In fact in early November there were SEVEN bald eagles observed at a lake on the North Shore. I had the privilege of seeing all seven at the same time, something common upstate along the Hudson, but unheard of here on Long Island. Why such a high concentration on one lake? A large amount of bunker had been forced into the lake, most likely by a school of predator fish, where the eagles were treated to an all you can eat buffet.

As a birder, it was thrilling to witness this. As a conservationist, words cannot begin to describe how I felt. But it was confirmation beyond a doubt that conservation efforts work-when they are allowed to work. Eagles spent decades recovering from dismally low population numbers and upping the menhaden allowable take could be detrimental to these efforts.

Pictured: Bald eagle, one of seven observed on the North Shore of Long Island- November 2016

In addition, the iconic bird of Long Island, the osprey, another bird that spent decades recovering from population crashes, is extremely dependent upon menhaden as between 70 and 90% of the osprey's diet consists of this fish. Where menhaden exists in great numbers, ospreys prosper. Menhaden restoration is perhaps the most important component of osprey recovery since the banning of DDT in 1972.

In addition to being prey fish, Menhaden have another important role that extends beyond being part of the food chain: they help clean our oceans. They are filter feeders that consume phytoplankton, controlling the growth of algae in coastal waters. This filter feeding clarifies the water, allowing sunlight in. This encourages the growth of aquatic plants that release oxygen, while providing habitat for fish and shellfish. As the population of menhaden declines, algal blooms have increased dramatically, transforming some inshore waters into dead zones.

All living things are connected, just like links on a chain. Take just one component out of the equation and an entire ecosystem can begin to decline, from top to bottom. The loss of menhaden, a significant link in the chain of biodiversity can and will create ecological mayhem.

This is why menhaden must be managed for ecological value, not commercial harvest value.

Among the various management options put forth, HOBAS voiced support to keep 75% of an unfished biomass in the water while menhaden-specific reference points are being developed.

HOBAS also opposed the rollover of unused quota. Further hearings are being held along the Atlantic coastline. We will keep you updated as we learn new information.



A Bird's Eye View From a Retired Marine

Peter J. Janow

When we think of the military, most often visions of planes, tanks and warships come to mind. And as a retired Marine Corps officer I can tell you these motivating images are the first to pop into my mind as well. Over a career that spanned three decades, three presidents, and two NY Giant Super Bowl victories, one of my most pleasant and important takeaways is knowing that our armed forces are chock-full of good people, many of whom have a strong connection to wildlife and conservation efforts.

As a function of service, our airman, sailors, soldiers and marines will find themselves in varied parts of the world that offer unique opportunities to see wildlife from land, air and sea based platforms. From my own travels this meant great experiences throughout the US, in the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, east-Asia, Australia, Guam and multiple locations within the Middle-east. And it was in this last region that a member of the Connecticut National Guard, Jonathan Trouern-Trend, began a series of blog posts that would eventually be published.

In the book *"Birding Babylon: A Soldier's Journal from Iraq,"* Sergeant First Trouern-Trend recounts his year-long deployment in this active and uncertain country, finding amazement in nature at seemingly unexpected times. As he states, "I'm lying on the ground with my eye on some guy racing around in a pickup truck, wondering if he's going to take a potshot at us ... while a pair of crested larks were not even 10 feet from me, the male displaying and dancing around." One important takeaway here is the reminder that the beauty of nature is independent of location and situation. And if we take the time, perhaps even just a brief moment to look and observe, we can find amazement and beauty in places we may not have expected.

Of course, when not deployed or otherwise "on-duty," opportunities to observe wildlife abound and many service-members, just as we do, make watching and photographing birds an active part of their off-duty downtime. Returning from my second deployment to the Middle-east, I was able to link up a colleague I spent seven months with working in Qatar, where he routinely shared motivating stories of his birding experiences back in his native Australia. Once in San Diego, we met up and continued the conversation where we left it as we walked the parks east off the city observing a good variety of species and even spotting a few significant life-birds. Upon returning to his native land, he continued to focus on his ornithological passion, co-authoring two books (*"Birds and Animals of Australia's Top End"* and *"Australian Birds: A Photographic Guide"*) and as of late working as a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland.

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Maintaining a connection to our communities, regardless of where we may find ourselves, is a vital part of the military experience and birding is often a way to keep up these vital relationships. As a civilian once again myself, I welcome their involvement and continued good work in support of so many conservation efforts we all agree upon. So when we happen to see them on the trails, let us know that we truly do have good people, from all walks of life, who are doing good things to help support our feathered friends.



Vermillion flycatcher, stock photo

A Beginner Birder's Happy Mistake

Sonia Garrido

When I announced at our November board meeting that I was going to Lima, Peru this Christmas, I was asked if I would be doing any birding. I said no, since I was only staying in Lima, and in my beginner birder mind I thought, what kind of birds could I possibly see in such a large city? Boy, was I wrong!

Although my parents' condo faces a busy avenue, the area is surrounded by trees and shrubs. One day when I was in my bedroom, I heard a strange, yet familiar noise... I rushed to my window, and there it was, a cute olive fella with yellow underparts. What a wonderful surprise! I immediately grabbed my dad's 1970's leather-cased binoculars and headed back to the window.

The passersby were probably puzzled by the sight of me half-hanging out of my window looking at the trees through my binoculars, but birders don't care how we look! During my short stay in Lima, I was able to identify a Vermillion Flycatcher and a couple of Blue Grey Tanagers. Even though my little olive companion showed up every day at 3pm, I am still not sure if he's a Peruvian or a Golden Faced Tyrannulet. I have since learned that flycatchers are notoriously challenging to identify and I shall bring better bins next time in order to solve the mystery. Stay tuned!

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
PO Box 735
Huntington, NY 11743

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Audubon's Plants for Birds Native Plant Database

Through Audubon's public online native plant database, anyone nationwide can access a list of available plants that benefit specific bird species on a local scale. By entering one's zip code, the database provides a list of native plants custom to the user's region, with information about the local bird species those plants can support. Check it out at <http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>



**Special Documentary Screening
Hometown Habitat
March 15, 2017
See inside for details!**

Native Plant Sale

Keep an eye out for our native plant sale flyer...arriving in your mailboxes mid-March!



**The Great Backyard Bird Count is Almost Here!
How many birds will you find?
Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017**

Visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>

and be a part of the more than 160K people of all ages and walks of life worldwide that join the four-day count each year to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You might be surprised at what birds actually visit your yard. Below, some of the birds visiting Stella Miller's deck!

