The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Newsletter

Serving from Fort Salonga in Suffolk Co. to Oyster Bay and Centre Island in Nassau Co. Jan 2019 - Apr 2019 Volume 7, No. 1



Spotlight: Tree Swallow

Tree Swallows are ideal indicators of the seasons. Returning in March, they are one of the first signs that spring migration is beginning. They are also ideal scientific study species because they are cooperative; a scientist can put out a nest box and they will come! Decades of research has revealed some zingers.

For one, they behave as if they are monogamous, but most Tree Swallows cheat on their mates. For another, climate change has forced Tree Swallows to lay their eggs about a week earlier than in the 1960s. And lastly, Tree Swallows eat a lot of insects that grow as larvae underwater, so they can reveal trends in contaminants leaching into the environment.

CALL TO ACTION

There are always opportunities to help our chapter! If you are interested in volunteering on a committee, help with our website, or to be considered for our board of directors, please email the editor at:

bnf25@cornell.edu

HOME, SWEET HOME

By Pat Reeves

Editors note: Pat Reeves and her late husband, Bill Reeves, became early members of Huntington Audubon in spring 1963. Pat bakes her amazing apple and walnut cake and brings it to monthly meetings in memory of Bill.

I grew up living with my family in a big renovated old house near the Hudson River in Stony Point, NY. As a child, I remember hearing my father singing the song, "Home, Sweet Home," while strumming on his guitar. I also remember standing next to my mother by a window as we watched a small yellow bird hopping around our backyard. She called the bird a canary. While growing up I don't ever remember worrying about the quality of the water we were drinking or the air we were breathing.

Today I and many other people are concerned about the quality of the air and water available to us, our children and our children's children. All across Earth there are people, plants, and animals that may not be able to continue to thrive where they are currently living.

On November 10, I attended the NYS Audubon Society's second Long Island Climate Conference as a delegate for Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon. This year's conference was titled "Coastal Resilience in a Warming World." Members from eight Long Island Audubon Chapters met from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Sister's of St. Joseph congregation in Brentwood, NY. The conference agenda consisted of welcome remarks and keynote address by David J. Ringer, Audubon's first Chief Network Officer. This was followed by plenary speaker, Dr. Karen Hyun, Vice President for Coastal Conservation at the National Audubon Society. The theme echoed, "What's good for birds is good for people. Birds alert us to environmental threats, and shifts in their habitats are clear indicators of the immediate impact of climate change." ...continued on the back page.



Black-throated Green Warbler, happy in an oak. Photo: Brendan Fogarty

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, Inc.

The mission of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon is to protect wildlife and preserve habitat through conservation action, advocacy and education.

Board of Directors

Officers

Chapter President: (vacant)

Vice President: Simone DaRos s.daros@aol.com

Secretary: Brendan Fogarty bnf25@cornell.edu

Treasurer: (vacant)

Directors

Andy Burke, Fundraising Committee need4seed@optonline.net

Tess Copa, Education Committee tesicopa@yahoo.com

Sonia Garrido, Technology and Outreach, Field Trips sonia_sp@yahoo.com

Coby Klein, Conservation, Field Trips cklein@gc.cuny.edu

Newsletter & Photos

Brendan Fogarty

www.hobaudubon.org

www.facebook.com/hobaudubon

hobaudubon@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Brendan Fogarty

The end of the year is a peaceful time of reflection. Ideally. In reality, it is a hectic time of capital commitment. And with that comes internal struggle, as people dedicated to helping the environment in everything we do. Should I use Amazon, as they descend upon New York City with their additional headquarters, or try to be more low-impact with my buying power? What local, or locally-sourced items are even available to us on Long Island? Even the collective omniscience of the internet seems not have thought much about it. I am happy to see that the traditional end-all, spend-all extravaganza of Black Friday is finally not the only dedicated day for opening wallets, with Small Business Saturday and Giving Tuesday adding some substance to the weeklong parade. HOBAS received some wonderful donations this year, and we are eternally grateful for even the smallest monetary kudos. We are proud to be a cause that is worth unsolicited donations. It is high praise.

In order to maintain our good work, we need your help. While some other local Audubon chapters operate with over a dozen people on their board of directors, we currently have seven, and it will be six come the new year. We have so much we want to do, but our human resources are limited and there is enough operations work to keep us quite busy. Historically, we have been a force active in advocating for all our wonderful local parks, in both preserving them and improving them to become even more attractive for birds and people. There are so many potential projects out there: habitat restoration, invasive species management, native gardens, nest box installments, refuse removal, educational signage, collaborations within the community, and so much more. I bet you can think of one you would like to see happen just after seeing that list. We want to help you make it happen, but you also must help us. We are a local chapter. We do not have the federal sway of National Audubon. We make action happen on the small scale, and our strength is our constituents. There are so many volunteering options, from physical helping at events to fundraising efforts to spearheading initiatives, we welcome all help. If you are interested in becoming involved, please reach out to the officers or directors (emails on the left side of this page).

Even beyond being an Audubon member, you have influence over local policy. HOBAS can act as a voice for many, but that certainly does not mean the voice of one is weak. In this issue, I am sharing a piece from National Audubon titled "How to Be an Effective Advocate in Less Than Five Minutes". It gives specific tips on how to effectively reach out to local policymakers. Any of us can do this. All of us can do this. Not everyone thinks of birds and the environment first, so it is a common duty for us all to represent the wonderful biodiversity of our area. Give your representative a call — I promise, that will be one of your easier holiday commitments this year!

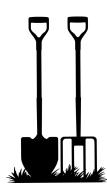
	- •	•	• • •		advocacy and educational life and habitat, including
issues on a local, regiona		1	•		
Membership-\$20					
I wish to make an addit	ional donation of_				
Name					
Address					
City	State	Zip code			
Would you like to receive	ve alerts and notic	es? email			
	Pl	ease fill out this form an	nd mail with your ch	eck to:	

PO Box 735, Huntington NY 11743

GET OUT THERE, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

By Simone DaRos

What a fabulous turn out HOBAS had at the September Beach Cleanup held at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge. On a beautiful, September morning a large group of volunteers from Henry Schein, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Leave No Trace, and HOBAS came out to make a difference at our beloved TRNWR on National Public Lands Day. Anthony Horton, of Henry Schein coordinated a large group of Team Schein volunteers to discover this gem of a refuge and were enthusiastic about removing the trash that had been washed up or left behind along the precious rocky shoreline. All of the volunteers



were conscientious to sort for recyclable trash and combed the shoreline to the cliff picking up tiny plastics, plastic lids, plastic, metal, and glass containers, wrappers, string, balloons, and fishing line. Ann Marie Chapman of USFWS and volunteer Glenn Kaufman introduced our volunteers to the refuge and spoke about the impactful difference the beach cleanup has upon wildlife and for how trash removal enhances the natural experience for visitors.

Volunteers were able to interact at the Leave No Trace, Hot Spot 2018 table and were educated about the best practices of ways to visit public places while leaving no impact. The HOBAS table was monitored by volunteers Lori Oddo and Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary educator, Julie Nelson, who engaged the volunteers in signing Be a Good Egg pledges which promises to pick up one's own trash, keep dogs leashed, and stay out of designated bird habitats and nesting areas. Volunteers were interested in learning more about native plants and planting for bird-friendly backyards. One of the highlights was being able to show case two newly installed fishing line receptacles located at the base of the stairs and at the entrance to the beach. All fishing line found on the beach was securely deposited where it belonged so that it, too, could be recycled.

Many thanks to Lou and James Ricci and their family for working together to construct and install both receptacles and educational signage. Target Rock is known as a fishing destination and having a designated container to deposit unused or discarded monofilament will directly benefit wildlife, such as the local-nesting Osprey, by avoiding entanglement or ingestion. See page 4 for more on this successful project.

Getting out there, to make a difference takes vision, collaboration, hard work, and the desire to make positive impacts where needed. Working together at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge in order to remove trash and increase public awareness and appreciation for the natural resources is a privilege and a gift that this year we a grateful for.

THE TRIPLE HYBRID

By Coby Klein

It's not very unusual for two closely related bird species to hybridize. Different waterfowl species hybridize frequently, especially mallards and black ducks. Blue-winged and Goldenwinged warblers interbreed often enough that their hybrid combinations have their own names: Brewster's Warbler and Lawrence's Warbler. Most of the time hybrids are unable to find mates, either because they are infertile or they just don't look enough like either parent species to attract a partner. But one bird, discovered earlier this year in rural Pennsylvania, is the exception to this rule. It's a triple hybrid.

The bird's mother (or maternal grandmother) was a Brewster's Warbler (recall, that is a hybrid already) and its father was a Chestnut-sided Warbler! The bird looked most like a Brewster's Warbler but sang like a Chestnut-sided. What's even more extraordinary is that while Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers belong to the same genus, *Vermivora*, Chestnut-sided Warblers belong to a different genus, *Setophaga*. These sorts of intergeneric hybrids are common in plants but quite rare in birds, who, unlike plants, get to actively choose who they breed with. But perhaps the most important lesson this bird teaches us is despite having evolved separately tens of thousands of years ago, it seems many warbler species are still capable of interbreeding, confounding our ideas of what defines a species.



↑ The triple hybrid warbler looks closest to a Brewster's Warbler, but has a darker back, bigger beak, and whiter undersides and face. Photo: Lowell Burkett

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Two newsletters ago, we shared the wonderful project thought up by local eight grader James Ricci: Reel in and Recycle. A budding naturalist, James wanted to help promoting responsible disposal of fishing lines by installing receptacles that fisherman could use at pristine fishing spots. We shared a link to his Go Fund Me webpage, and are thrilled to report that the campaigned has raised \$467 so far! That is a wonderful accomplishment and shows both the dedication of James and those who supported him. So far, two receptacles have been installed at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge and more are planned for installation in 2019. The collected fishing line will be sent to Berkley Fishing Company where the monofilament will be recycled into fish habitat structures. It is not too late to support his cause, visit the link below to give him a few dollars of encouragement!

https://www.gofundme.com/reel-in-and-recycle

FALL 2018 HOBAS BIRDSEED FUNDRAISER REPORT

By Simone DaRos

In preparation for the colder days in fall and the frigid temperatures in winter many of our members and beyond supported HOBAS' Fall 2018 birdseed fundraiser in November, by stocking up on high quality seed and suet. Supplementing food resources for our winter backyard birds and supporting Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon's

fundraising efforts at the same time is something we are grateful for and is considered a "win-win," as they say! Funds raised from this birdseed fundraiser will go directly toward our monthly educational speaker programs.

Holding a birdseed fundraiser is a huge undertaking and requires the support of many. HOBAS would like to send out many thanks to Andy and Christine Burke of Wild Birds Unlimited, Syosset, for arranging and hosting this event. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of all of our birdseed fundraiser volunteers and we thank Stella Miller, Sonia Garrido, Sean Prestia, Coby Klein, Tess Copa, Blair Broughton, Pauline Seidl, and Tom Lynch for going above and beyond to help make this event a successful one.

THANK YOU, SEAN

The board wants to thank our own Sean Prestia for his excellent work as our treasurer. Sean had no trouble jumping right in when we needed him, and modernized our book-keeping system. Sean will be making the transition to living in Pacific Canada next year. Thank you Sean, we wish you the best.

HOBAS is seeking a new treasurer with some non-profit experience, and if not, it is a great skill to learn. All inquiries can be emailed to the editor, Brendan, at bnf25@cornell.edu or Vice-President, Simone, at s.daros@aol.com.

Member's Gallery

Do you have any great photos of nature or wildlife from within our chapter territory? Send us and we may feature it HERE!

→bnf25@cornell.edu

I cheated and photographed this Evening Grosbeak in the Adirondacks, but on rare occasions they appear in our area—including this winter! Keep those feeders stocked!

Photo: Brendan Fogarty



HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES

Part of a National Audubon article, see https://www.audubon.org

So you've made a decision to do more to protect birds, other wildlife and our shared environment—now what?

You—as a constituent—are your lawmakers' boss. They want to hear from you. Use that influence; you don't have to be an expert or a professional lobbyist. It is quick to reach out.

1. Contact your lawmakers with a letter or an email

Lawmakers often calculate that each letter they receive from one of their constituents represents a similar view of at least 100 constituents. That's why letters to lawmakers are so important.

- Keep your letter or email to one page, one subject and state
 the purpose in the opening paragraph, particularly the action you would like to see taken (please cosponsor HR 35,
 etc). If your letter pertains to a specific bill, identify it accordingly. Always be courteous—address them as "the
 Honorable" and begin the letter "Dear Representative:"
- Let them know how the issue affects you personally
- Let your lawmaker know you live and vote locally
- Ask for a reply. Always close your communication by asking for a written response stating their position on the issue.

Email tips: be sure to include your address so your lawmaker knows you are a constituent. All House members can be found at **www.house.gov** and all Senators at **www.senate.gov**. When responding to an Audubon alert—which contains a ready-to-go message—try to customize the first sentence or two. "As a lifelong birder, I urge you to...." can make a big difference.

With today's digital communication options, a hand written or typed letter is a real novelty and will attract extra attention in most Congressional offices. Be aware, though, that Congress still scans postal mail for suspicious substances. That can delay the arrival of your letter by several weeks.

2. Place a phone call

Phone calls are a great way to communicate your concerns to lawmakers. You will probably speak with an aide or intern rather than the lawmaker, but your call is still very important.

- Identify yourself as a constituent; it gives you power.
- Be brief and clear. Always limit your call to one subject.
 State why you are calling, give a bill number if possible, and the action you would like the lawmaker to take on the issue.

Sometimes the person taking your call can tell you how the Member plans to vote on an issue. If you get intelligence like that, reporting it back is extremely helpful. For organized call-in days, there is usually a brief "I called" report you can submit. If

not, you can always tell how your call went at audubonaction@audubon.org.

3. Personal visits

By far the most effective way to articulate your views to your elected official and positively affect the outcome of legislation is to speak with your lawmaker face-to-face.

- Check your local paper for town meetings with lawmakers.
 Be prepared to ask a simple and concise question in person!
- Schedule an appointment with the lawmaker's office. Most
 meetings do not exceed 10 minutes, and you don't need to
 be an expert on an issue or a professional lobbyist to make
 it a successful meeting. Just bring your passion and your
 story. Remember it's about communicating and educating
 someone on the things you care about.
- To schedule an appointment, call your lawmaker's office, ask for the "scheduler" and set up a meeting. Always identify yourself as a constituent. Staff in congressional offices are very busy, and even meeting with staff can be equally effective. Try the scheduler again after two days if they do not return your call. Polite persistence pays off.
- Always come prepared with a specific request for action for the lawmaker to take. After clearly stating your position, ask for the lawmaker's position on the issue or legislation. Politely press for a commitment. If the legislator is not able to state her/his position at the time of the meeting, ask when you should follow up (usually within a week of the visit) and how (by phone or email) to inquire about any action taken. Be sure to discuss how the legislation will directly affect you. Personal stories carry weight. If possible, demonstrate widespread support by mentioning others in the community—organizations, officials, etc.—who agree with your position.

Always be polite, positive, and professional. Thank the lawmaker or staffer for meeting with you and for any past helpful support. Close the meeting with thanks as well, regardless of whether or not the lawmaker will commit. It's a good idea to bring written material—an information packet—to give to the lawmaker or staffer. Follow-up your visit with a personal letter thanking the lawmaker or staffer for their time. This is another opportunity to make your point. If the congressional office made a commitment, remind them of this in your letter.

So there you have it. Simple, time-tested methods of how you—a constituent—can make a tremendous impact on the legislative process. We hope you'll get involved in our efforts and utilize these guidelines to help protect and secure a safe future for birds, other wildlife and their habitat. Remember, we can't do it without you!

For more info, email audubonaction@audubon.org.

Events: Jan 2019 - Apr 2019

FIELD TRIPS

REGISTRATION BY PHONE IS REQUIRED.

Please register at least two days ahead of your trip. Membership is not required; experts & newcomers welcome.

Don't forget to bring binoculars, proper clothing and shoes, and insect repellant! If you need to borrow binoculars, ask your leader if they have extras.

→ January 6, Sunday, 9 AM

South Shore Winter Birding: Capri to Captree

Leader: Blair Broughton; Registration: (631) 885-1881 Meet at Capri Lake, which is about a mile west of the Robert Moses Pkwy or a mile east of Rt 231 on Montauk Hwy. We will meet in a small office parking lot on the NW corner of Montauk Hwy and Barberry Road.

→ February 3, Sunday, 9 AM

North Shore Ducks

Leader: Blair Broughton; Registration: (631) 885-1881 Meet at St. John's Pond by the church behind the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery.

→ February 10, Sunday, 9 AM

Sunken Meadow State Park

Leader: Coby Klein; Registration: (585) 880-0915

Take Sunken Meadow State Pkwy north to end, meet in northwest corner of field 1.

→ February 24, Sunday, 9 AM

Point Lookout

Leader: Blair Broughton; Registration: (631) 885-1881 Take Meadowbrook Pkwy to Loop Pkwy. At end of Loop Pkwy., turn left on Lido Blvd. Go to end of road and park anywhere near the entrance to the park. Meet by the gate to the park.

→ March 10, Sunday, 9 AM

Robert Moses State Park

Leader: Coby Klein; Registration: (585) 880-0915

Take Robert Moses State Pkwy south to end, meet in field 2.

→ April 14, Sunday, 9 AM

Tackapausha Preserve

Leader: Coby Klein; Registration: (585) 880-0915

Take Rt 135 south to its end at Merrick Road in Seaford and drive east for a half mile, then turn left onto Washington Avenue. Meet at 2225 Washington Ave. Seaford, just north of the big Dunkin Donuts parking lot.

FAMILY EVENTS

→ January 12, Saturday, 10:30 AM — 12 PM

Sagamore Hill Winter Family Stroll

Children with their adults will welcome in the New Year with a stroll around the grounds of Sagamore Hill Historic Site while taking in wonderful winter nature sights and sounds. Learn basic bird I.D. Keep track of bird sightings on your own beginners' naturalist data sheet (provided).

Please register by January 9, by calling (516) 896-2872.

Meet at far end of main parking lot (free parking) opposite Welcome Center at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, 20 Sagamore Hill Rd in Oyster Bay. Dress for moderate to strenuous (hilly terrain) outdoor winter activity. Bring a snack and extra water for your comfort. Restrooms are available. Rain will cancel the stroll.

→ April 24, Wednesday, 10:30 AM — 12 PM

I Spy Nature at Target Rock

Children with their adults will engage in a beginners' naturalist hike along woodland trails and beachside habitats. Enjoy using your senses to explore this beautiful refuge. Look closely at different plants and signs of animals along the way. Keep track of your sightings on your own beginners' naturalist checklist (provided).

Please register by April 21, by calling (516) 896-2872.

Meet at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge, 12 Target Rock Road, Huntington. Parking fee is \$4.00. Dress for moderate to strenuous (hilly terrain) outdoor activity. Bring extra water and snacks for your comfort, restrooms are available.

→ Please check our Facebook and website at **www.hobaudubon.org** for the latest on scheduled and additional events



↑ Red-winged Blackbird nest. Photo: Brendan Fogarty

Events: Jan 2019 - Apr 2019

PROGRAMS

→ **ALL PROGRAMS** held at Cold Spring Harbor Library 95 Harbor Rd, Cold Spring Harbor, NY

7 PM light refreshments, 7:30 PM speaker

→ January 9, Wednesday. At 7PM, join us for hot chocolate and cookies for a cozy viewing of:

SNOWBOUND: ANIMALS OF WINTER

From the shelter of our homes, snow looks magical, but it is a harsh reality to many animals. Snow means freezing temperatures, which these animals must endure for many months.

Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan meets some of the world's most iconic snow animals across the globe, from the penguins of Antarctica to the bison of Yellowstone and the Arctic fox. Beyond the Arctic Circle in northern Norway, he encounters wolves, lynx, reindeer, polar bears, muskox, and even a woolly bear - the most miraculous, coolest Arctic caterpillar! Buchanan reveals the incredible adaptations and extraordinary strategies these animals use to survive.

 \rightarrow February 13, Wednesday. Light refreshments at 7 PM, speaker at 7:30 PM.

CORVID APPRECIATION: FROM JAY BEAUTY TO RAVEN BRAINS by Brendan Fogarty

It is easy to take our local corvids—jays, crows, and even ravens—for granted, especially when they raid our feeders. But there is something uncommon amongst these backyard birds. Between their ability to learn and strong family values, this group of birds is especially relatable. And they are not all black and blue either—come see the phenomenal diversity of corvids across the world.

Brendan is a local bird enthusiast who began volunteering with HOBAS in High School as a member of the Youth Outreach Committee. After graduating Cornell, Brendan returned to Long Island and joined the board. Brendan currently serves as Recording Secretary and Newsletter Editor for HOBAS. His other volunteer activities include serving as a director for the New York State Ornithological Association and a member of the United States Green Building Council Transportation Committee, focused on electric vehicle outreach and advocacy. He is also an eBird reviewer and is involved in the Irish traditional music scene.

→ March 13, Wednesday, 6 PM

MONTAUK TO MANHATTAN: NATURE HOTSPOTS by Don Riepe, 7:30 PM

Please join us this evening as we hear about some of the most beautiful and diverse natural hot spots from Montauk to Manhattan. Learn about diverse wildlife and unique habitats in which you can access and explore for birding and for pleasure.

Don Riepe has been the Littoral Society's Jamaica Bay Program Director since 1985. In 2004 he assumed the role of the Jamaica Bay Guardian. With 25 years as a naturalist and manager of the National Park System's Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Don is knowledgeable about and a staunch defender of wildlife and habitat in the urban littoral zone. He has led the Society's efforts to coordinate the International Coastal Cleanup for the state of New York for more than 30 years, and has initiated the derelict boat removal program known as Jamaica Bay Clean Sweep. Don is an Advisory Council member for NYC Audubon. He holds a Master of Science in Natural Resource Management from the University of New Hampshire.

 \rightarrow April 10, Wednesday. Light refreshments at 7 PM, speaker at 7:30 PM.

RAPTOR RESEARCH ACROSS THE AMERICAS by Jean-Francois Therrien

Please join us this evening as we hear from, Jean-Francois Therrien, Ph.D., senior research biologist at Hawk Mountain, Kempton, PA. He will share some of his fieldwork experience, and show the challenges and rewards of studying our favorite flying predators.

After completing an academic internship with Hawk Mountain in the fall of 2002, JF returned nine years later as Senior Research Biologist. He now leads the Sanctuary's research projects in the Arctic and is also involved in several studies including the movement ecology of New World Vultures and Peregrine Falcons across the Americas. When he is not monitoring the long-term American kestrel nest-box program or helping with the migration counts from the Sanctuary's lookout, JF can be found teaching statistics to Sanctuary trainees and enjoying life with his wife and two young children



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon PO Box 735 Huntington, NY 11743 Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Huntington, NY
Permit No. 546

"Home, Sweet Home", continued from cover... The conference agenda included two panels, one panel focused on coastal resiliency and the second panel covered climate solutions. Audubon New York reports that "Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report found that 314 North American bird species could lose more than half of their current ranges by 2080 due to global warming." The positive closing remarks suggested to "protect birds from the worst impacts of climate change, you can make a difference through simple actions at home, in your community, and politically at large." Let's make sure we keep Earth a Home, Sweet Home for all its inhabitants.

To learn more: ny.audubon.org #BirdsTellUs

A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH A LOCAL ARTIST, by Sonia Garrido

This past year HOBAS has had a very special partnership with a young local artist who has shown a deep interest in promoting conservation through her art.

This young artist is Alexa Helburn, a junior at Huntington High School. Alexa takes beautiful photos of local nature and wildlife. She is supporting HOBAS by donating all proceeds from her photography fundraiser events to benefit two of our projects.

As we reported in a previous newsletter issue, we held a photography fundraiser featuring Alexa's photography in the month of June whose proceeds were directed to another young conservationist's project, eagle scout James Ricci, to build fishing line receptacles. Almost \$200 was raised at this event and due to the overwhelming success, Alexa decided to hold another fundraiser in November.

At the second event, the proceeds benefited the Guatemala Women in Agroecology Leadership for Conservation Program (WALC), in which we sponsor Mayan girls to get a better education. This program is offered through the Community Cloud Forest Conservation, a non-profit organization in Guatemala. For most young women in the rural villages of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, education beyond the sixth grade is often out of reach. In fact, the drop-out rate for girls moving from 6th to 7th grade in these villages is higher than 75%. Facing limited resources, many parents send only their sons away to school. However, WALC participants from this same demographic have a less than 5% dropout rate.

Alexas photos were taken during field trips and nature walks around Long Island, the Hudson River, and coastal Massachusetts. November's fundraiser was even more successful, bringing the total amount raised to over \$500. If you missed the event, you can still purchase photos through our website, hobaudon.org!