



The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society Newsletter

Serving from Fort Salonga in Suffolk County to Oyster Bay and Centre Island in Nassau County

Volume 10, Issue 1
January - April 2022

The mission of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is to protect wildlife and preserve habitat through conservation action, advocacy, and education. This chapter territory serves both Huntington and Oyster Bay townships with its all-volunteer chapter 501c3 non-profit established in 1961.

Board of Directors

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President: Opportunity available

Vice President: Opportunity available

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Letter from the Editor

Written and photographed by Alexandra Martinez



Cardinals - Summer Special or Winter Feature?

There's nothing like catching the red streak of a cardinal's feathers as it dances through the air. Like many of you, I am sure, each time I see a cardinal cross my path I think of a loved one passed. In the summer, I walk a lot, and I noticed many cardinals socializing in flocks near Fleets Cove beach in the feathered reed grass. You can easily recognize their sweet whistles and they love any bird seed mix that includes sunflower seeds! I've enticed many cardinals into my yard with feeders full of sunflower seeds.

I often wondered why cardinals were such a winter bird when I see them all summer long. Come this time of year, you can find cardinal ornaments, cardinal pillows, cardinal mosaics - just about anything featuring wintry scenes and a bright red cardinal seems to be the perfect holiday gift. But after a little research, it turns out cardinals do not migrate. So the cardinals I see all summer longer are the same ones I see as the seasons change. So perhaps, it seems that, commercially, the cardinals get lost amongst the summer colors and the fresh flowers and the goldfinches, but their shining moment comes in the winter months when their plumes are so eye-catching against a snowy backdrop.

During the summer and winter months, cardinals enjoy dense shrubs for nesting. I have a holly bush right outside my living room window, so regardless of the season, I am lucky enough to glance up when I hear their distinctive "cheer cheer cheer" of the cardinal and see it amongst the greenery or the snow. Wishing you many cardinal sightings this holiday season! May you enjoy the time you have to spend with those in the present and may you cherish the memories each red feather brings of the past! Happy Holidays and have a safe, happy, and healthy New Year from the board of HOBAS!

Nominating Committee Seeks Like-minded Leaders



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS) is seeking serious candidates for board of director roles and leadership positions. The nominating committee is eager to meet interested individuals who feel they may have the skill set to further enhance HOBAS' mission to protect birds and wildlife through conservation action and education, or who can support the board in various administrative ways.

Members of the HOBAS Board of Directors are all volunteers who attend monthly meetings and serve on committees such as: programs, field trip leaders, public outreach, conservation, education, newsletter, and communications.

HOBAS (formerly Huntington Audubon Society), established in 1961 as an all-volunteer, not for profit, 501 (c)3 chapter of National Audubon Society serving Northern Oyster Bay and Huntington Townships, is looking forward to reinvigorating the board and leadership with new recruits who want to build upon HOBAS' successes.

If you have an interest in dedicating your passion and time to a long-established organization of like-minded individuals, who care deeply about birds, wildlife, conservation, and education then please contact Michael Frank, HOBAS' Treasurer, for more information.

Contact Information:

- **Telephone Number:**
631-252-1082
- **Email:** vonfranz77@gmail.com

2021 BIRD SEED SALE RECAP

By Michael Frank

Once again our annual Bird Seed Sale proved to be HOBAS' most important fundraiser and we had another successful event thanks to our loyal members and participants. As in previous years, we also owe a large debt of gratitude to the "Wild Birds Unlimited" store in Syosset. As our hosts and partners on the sale, we want to send a special thank you to Andy Burke and the entire staff for their hard work, generosity, and help through every stage of the process. We literally could not do this without them. Thank you to all!



OWL SPOTTING

One of our board members, Michael Frank, took this photo a few weeks ago. There is always something a little extra special when an owl is spotted.

PLANT SALE

Add native plants and happy butterflies to your yard this year.

Shop soon at: ReWild's Spring 2022 Native Plant Sale

Pre-Order Online, March 21 to April 15, 2022.

Pickup in early May at a convenient location near you.

<https://www.rewildlongisland.org/plantsale>

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is not a wildlife rehabilitation organization, but we would urge you to keep a few handy resources at the ready should you encounter wildlife in need. Please know that wildlife rehabilitators are all volunteer individuals who are licensed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Please refer to the NYS DEC website and search for a wildlife rehabilitator near you by county. Moreover, Volunteers for Wildlife is a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation hospital located in Locust Valley at 516-674-0982. Thank you to all the wildlife rehabilitators who give so much to injured, orphaned, and displaced wildlife.

Birds and Windows Don't Mix: How to Prevent Bird Strikes

By Julie Sullivan

I figured that birds were safe from hitting most -- but not all my windows -- until I heard a thud, and found a dead thrush outside my one and only unprotected window. Question: what to install on this picture window to prevent further bird strikes?

Since my double hung windows are screened on the outside (the screens remain year long), birds safely bounce off. My patio doors are covered inside with UV reflective decals. Lace curtains hang on rods attached at the top and bottom in my casement windows so birds avoid them even when open. Now I needed something for the picture window. Perhaps, more lace curtains?

While traditional lace is fine for the casements in my bedroom, I wanted something that wouldn't obscure the view. So I considered fine white netting with obvious threads laced throughout -- like a web. Since birds avoid spiderwebs, this was my choice for the picture window, and I love it.



Laced Netting in Picture Window –
Traditional Lace in Casement

I tucked the raw edges under at the top and bottom and sewed 1" hems (YouTube "Locked hem stitch") for side tunnels to slip in tension curtain rods. (Rods were \$5.72 each at Home Depot). For lace, browse designourlife on Etsy, and for my \$6.99/yard laced netting go to www.etsy.com/listing/196906763.



Here is my patio door featuring special decals. These "Birds Eye View" six inch square decals by Artscape come in packs of four for \$9.97, available through our friends at Wild Birds Unlimited, 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, NY 11791.

Do what you can to ensure that no more birds suffer from injuries and fatalities like this one. Bird strikes are easily preventable by beautifying your home with attractive window coverings.

BREAKING NEWS: City Council Passes "Lights Out for Birds" Bill

The City Council has passed the CM Rosenthal "Lights Out for Birds" Bill 274. This means that city-owned buildings will be mandated to turn off non-essential outdoor lighting from 11pm-6am when birds are in the midst of their peak migration periods. Each year, as birds migrate over major cities, they are disoriented by the artificial lighting and many times collide with buildings and windows oftentimes causing injury or death. As per data from the NYC Audubon Society, somewhere between 90,000 to 230,000 birds in migration collide with NYC skyscrapers and fall to their deaths on the sidewalks. Bill 274 is a huge win, first and foremost for our birds, and second for the Audubon chapters who have been fighting for such protection for our wildlife. For more information, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/Lights-Out-for-Birds>.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
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Non-Profit
Organization
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For \$20 a year, you can be a member of the all-volunteer Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. Your membership directly supports HOBAS' mission to advocate for wildlife and habitat through conservation efforts, educational opportunities, and youth programs. Please join or renew today; HOBAS appreciates your support!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Including:

_____ \$20.00 annual chapter only membership

_____ Additional Donation

Please fill out this form and mail with your check payable to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735

Amazon Smile

By Michael Frank


Thank you to all of our members who have started to use Amazon Smile as an easy way to support the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society! Amazon Smile is a simple and cost-free way to show your support for your favorite charity and we appreciate all who have done so already. Instead of logging into amazon.com, please log into smile.amazon.com and choose the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society as your supported charity. You will get the same exact low prices and great selection you normally would from Amazon, but with Amazon Smile for every dollar that you spend on eligible purchases Amazon will donate .5% to us. It is a great, easy way to support the good work at HOBAS!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 12, 2022 at 7:00PM: “Fungal Foraging”

Dr. Kristen Wickert will answer all of our most compelling mushroom questions, such as “What is the difference between hyphae and mycelium?” “Why is it ok to pluck instead of cut a mushroom when foraging?” and, of course the age old question: “Can I eat it?” Her talk will educate us on key features of mushrooms that can help develop our mushroom identification skills. The lecture is filled with photos and stories of specific edible mushrooms in North America and will also address the importance of understanding the presence of “deadly look-alikes.”


Speaker Bio: Dr. Kristen Wickert is a professional naturalist in Appalachia that studies fungi, arthropods, and plants and how they interact and rely on each other for survival. She uses this knowledge to help influence people’s perspectives of nature and teach them how they are a part of the system and can contribute to preserving the magical creatures that share our home with us. As a professional educator she teaches children, adults and even politicians about how our actions affect a landscape. You can follow her social media account on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kaydubsthehikingscientist> where you will learn something new everyday.

 Register for the January Program at <https://bit.ly/HOBASJanuary2022>

February 9, 2022 at 7:00PM: “NY Breeding Bird Atlas - Year Two Update”

It’s hard to believe we already have two years of wonderful atlas data under our belt. The next three years will go quickly, so this talk will give an update of where we have come from and where we are going. This talk will be for anyone who is involved in the atlas or is curious about results so far.


Speaker Bio: Brendan Fogarty is a native Long Islander who has been birding and participating in local conservation for twenty years, several of which from the board of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon and the New York State Ornithological Association. He is a regional coordinator for the Third New York Breeding Bird Atlas for Long Island and New York City.

 Register for the February Program at <https://bit.ly/HOBASFebruary22>

March 9, 2022 at 7:00PM: “Birding with the Fish Guy”

Take a look at the sea’s feathered friends with Chris Paparo in this multimedia presentation. Find out what Long Island birds can be observed close to the shore. Learn details about wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors, as well as where one can go to observe each of them.

Speaker Bio: Born and raised on Long Island (New York), Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the Island for over 30 years. As the owner of Fish Guy Photos, he is a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer who enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing and the outdoors led him to obtain a BS in Marine Science from LIU/Southampton and he currently manages the Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University. An award winning member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the New York State Outdoor Writers Association, he freelance writes for several fishing and wildlife related publications. Although his work tends to focus on marine life, everything in the natural world is fair game. Follow his adventures on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vimeo, YouTube & TikTok at @fishguyphotos or by visiting his website at www.fishguyphotos.com.

 You can register for the March program at <https://bit.ly/HOBASMarch22>

April 13, 2022 at 7:00PM: “Recent Discoveries about Bird Song”

Dr. David Lahti, professor from Queens College, will share the latest revelations about bird songs, thanks to our modest house finch. The house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*) is a common New York bird that was introduced here from California in the 1940s. In the last decade our laboratory has contributed to this bird’s research prominence with studies of house finch song in New York, California, and Hawaii. Among our discoveries are (1) that females sing, and sing just as well as males although much less frequently; (2) that juvenile house finches have a loose enough vocal learning program that they can imitate certain features of canary song; (3) that they sing differently in different populations to adjust for traffic noise; (4) that the dialects previously present in New York have dissipated over the four decades into vague “clouds” of distinctive songs; (5) that they are biased in their learning towards certain kinds of syllables, especially complex ones, leaving a mark on their cultural evolution; and (6) that they repeatedly invent and modify song syllables in the same sorts of ways wherever they live, resulting in a consistent level of song similarity even between birds that are thousands of miles apart.

 You can register for the April program at <https://bit.ly/HOBASApril22>

All programs are virtual until further notice. Sign up for our listserv & view events online (www.hobaudubon.org/meetings_events.asp) & follow our social media for virtual programming updates.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS



Sunday Jan. 9, 2022, 9 AM: Montauk Point

During this all day trip, Dr. Coby Klein will discuss winter waterfowl, including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks.

Directions: I-19 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 at the concession building at Montauk Point State Park.

Sunday Feb. 13, 2022, 9 AM: Point Lookout

Look for loons, grebes and the beautiful harlequin duck. Point Lookout is known as the best and most reliable spot to see this showy duck.

Directions: Meadowbrook Pkwy to Loop Pkwy. At the end of Loop Pkwy, turn left. Go to the end of the road. Park anywhere near the entrance to the park. Meet by the gate to the park.

Sunday, Mar. 13, 2022, 9 AM: Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary

Located on the shore of the Long Island Sound, along a migratory flyway, this 179-acre sanctuary is home to a great diversity of marine life. In winter months, the 85-acre lake, a mixture of salt and fresh water, hosts over 5,000 ducks. The sanctuary has been recognized by the national Audubon Society of New York as an Important Bird Area due to its significant habitats and flyway.

Directions: Take the Throgs Neck Bridge to I-295 N. Keep right at the fork to continue on I-695 N and follow signs to I-95 N. Take exit 19, Playland Parkway all the way into the Rye Playland parking lot. Follow the driveway at the north end of the lot to the Sanctuary.

Sunday, Apr. 10, 2022, 9 AM: Avalon Nature Preserve

From its inception, Avalon Nature Preserve has sought to protect and restore the ecological heritage of this special landscape. Since 1997, the preserve has flourished into a thriving 216 acres of fields, forest, and wetlands, 140 of which are open to the public.

Directions: Take the Northern State Parkway east to NY 347. Keep right to NY 111 then continue east on NY 25A. Then turn left on Saddle Rd. The preserve is on the left.

ALL ABOVE FIELD TRIPS ARE HOSTED BY DR. COBY KLIEN.

Registration: 585-880-0915.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HOBAS will adhere to strict guidelines for the health and safety of all participants, including: pre-registration, with field-trip leader is required; group-size is limited to no more than 6 individuals; all participants must print and sign a waiver to be provided upon arrival (<https://bit.ly/HOBASwaiver>); social distancing and mask-wearing will be required; use of hand-sanitizer and hand-washing will be encouraged.

“Wild Winter - Art, Storytime & Nature program for Kids”

Sunday, February 13th, 2022, 2:00pm-3:30pm: Cold Spring Harbor Library

Join us for this free nature and art program for kids! We will make our very own animal-themed Valentine's Day craft to give to family and friends. In addition to making a craft we will also read a story about wildlife in winter, and then bundle up to go for a short walk in the woods on the Greenbelt Trail behind the library (weather permitting.) This program is geared for kids ages 10 and under, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The program is free but participants MUST register in advance.

To register please call 631-896-2872.



Please visit our website & social media for updates & additions to field trips & programs!