



# The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Newsletter

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

Volume 9, Issue 1  
January - April 2021

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

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Vice President: Opportunity available

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### Newsletter

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## A Message from the Board

By Alexandra Martinez

It's finally happened! The year we've all been waiting for to be over has finally come to a close! It's 2021! Here's to so much more hope and happenings in the year ahead... dinners indoors at your favorite restaurants, birthday parties with all of your friends, and of course, a HOBAS events calendar like "normal" again. We're sure you're all "zoomed out" just like we are; it's not the same holding our monthly Board of Directors meetings in the most well lit corner of our individual homes. When we volunteer to take part in community activities like HOBAS, it just doesn't feel the same when we can't all be together. But alas, we make it work anyway! We've offered a lot of great virtual programming since the pandemic began early last year. It's just one example of how we've been flexible these past few months and how you, our members, have adapted too! No one could've imagined what 2020 would bring, but we couldn't imagine the good that has come from it either like finding new ways to do old things! The Board of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is excited and hopeful for this New Year! We hope you had the happiest, safest, and healthiest holiday season you could and we look forward to being together again soon! And as always, we are in need of additional helping hands, so if you have a friend, relative, co-worker, or even acquaintance that you know who can help contribute to the mission of HOBAS in any way, please send them our way! There are President and Vice President positions open and waiting! And finally, a special thanks is due to our outside tax accountant, Jerome Hehir (CPA), who assists with our taxes pro bono and to whom we are incredibly grateful.

## 2020 Bird Seed Sale

By Michael Frank

Our Annual Bird Seed Sale is the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society's most important fundraiser of the year and we had another successful sale this year thanks to so many of our members like you. As in previous years, we owe a large debt of gratitude to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Syosset. As our hosts, their entire staff dedicated their help and hard work to make this another great year. A special thank you to Andy Burke, the store's owner, for his guidance, support, and - most of all - for his generosity throughout the entire process.



Additionally, thank you to Sonia Garrido, Julie Sullivan and Cathy Fitts (current and past HOBAS board members) for their on-site support, and to Simone Daros, Alexandra Martinez, and the entire board for their help with sales and getting the word out. A final thank you to our members for your continued support at this annual event, especially during such a difficult year. Please keep a look out for our next sale as you, our customers and members, were the driving force behind this year's success.

## Special Acknowledgment

*Thank  
You!*

The Board of HOBAS would like to especially acknowledge the family and friends of Patricia Tully for their donations in her memory. Many of you have reached out to us to make contributions in Patricia's honor and we are humbled and thankful for your generosity. HOBAS recognizes that our members have endured losses of loved ones and we thank you deeply for thinking of us during your most difficult of times.

## Reporting on Bird Species Extinctions

By Julie Sullivan, Conservation Chair

America's birds are in steep decline. In **The State of the Birds 2019**, a study conducted by the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), nearly 30% of all North American birds have disappeared over the last 50 years. Notably, there are steep declines in every habitat: forest birds by 22%, grassland birds by 53% and, since 1974, shorebirds by 37%.

Entomologist Professor Doug Tallamy describes how and why 3 billion birds have vanished in just five decades in his most recent book, *Nature's Best Hope*. According to Tallamy, it's all due to the loss of food webs that start with plants. He states that in a short span of time humans have pillaged the planet's flora by cutting down forests, building massive dams, constructing highways and cities, draining aquifers and turning prairies into miles of monocultures, introducing invasive plants, and polluting the atmosphere with greenhouse gasses.







Professor Tallamy explains that animals, including insects, obtain their energy through photosynthesis when they eat plants. Caterpillars - the sole source of sustenance for 96% of North American terrestrial bird nestlings - evolved specialized relationships with plants. But, according to a 2019 United Nations report, the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** (IPBES), around 1 million plant and animal species worldwide are now threatened with extinction in what is being cited by many as the "Sixth Extinction." Without caterpillars, future generations of most birds will starve.

In Audubon Society's recent **Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink** report, as the climate changes, birds will be forced to relocate and they may not survive. The Audubon Society studied 604 North American bird species using 140 million bird records as well as world-wide data, and concluded that North America's eleven highly vulnerable bird species will be threatened by wildfires, spring heat waves, heavy rains, and urbanization. These birds will likely lose up to 98% of their range with a temperature rise of 3°C during summer months.

Audubon's report noted that in Suffolk County, 40 out of 130 highly and moderately vulnerable species may lose more than half their range. Piping Plovers and Boat-tailed Grackles will lose nest sites as sea levels rise. Eastern Whip-poor-wills will lose nesting birds during spring heat waves with just a 1.5°C increase. A rise of 3°C means these Eastern Whip-poor-wills, along with Fish Crows, Eastern Towhees, and Brown Thrashers will lose most of their Long Island range. Pine Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers will lose half of their range; the Long Island range of Field Sparrows, Worm-eating Warblers and Wood Thrushes will decline. Humans, too, will suffer from these catastrophic declines of populations among common and rare species. But, we can still reverse climate change and save local bird habitats for the survival of all species. We can start with our homes, schools, and local governments by:



Piping Plover, Nathan Johnson/Audubon Photography Awards

-  Expanding renewable energy
-  Working on climate change mitigation
-  Teaching and promoting climate-friendly actions
-  Removing invasive plants
-  Planting native species
-  Supporting organizations like Audubon

It's time to reclaim the future of birds for our survival and for that of all living species on Earth.

## Sponsor-A-Species-Survey



We can help begin to reclaim the future for a species mentioned in the report! Use the Camera App to scan the code or visit <https://forms.gle/REvcHbPAK916igk19> to select a species mentioned that needs our assistance! Through your kind donations, we can be a part of the NY Breeding Bird Atlas Sponsor-A-Species campaign! Which species would you prefer? Get your vote in today!

## Virtual Fall Council Meeting

By S. DaRos

The biannual Connecticut and New York Audubon Fall Council meeting was held virtually on October 21-26, 2020. The conference was successfully delivered with 32 chapters well represented and chapter leaders seemed to feel an extra special sense of Audubon-family and togetherness during this virtual gathering. The agenda was thoughtfully crafted with keynote speakers, workshops, webinars, and round table presentations offered digitally over the course of a few evenings.

Participants were introduced to guest presenter, Dr. Chandu Visweswariah, CEO of Utopus Insights and founding Board member of CURE100, a community-based not for profit organization, aimed at achieving net zero greenhouse gases in our communities by 2040. Visweswariah presented the group with his program entitled: "Radical Climate Action." Dr. Visweswariah spoke of his new Carbon Factor APP which acts as a carbon tracker enabling the user to track carbon reduction. Participants engaged in meaningful discussion and thought-provoking statistics. Additionally presented was the Birdability webinar, offered by National Audubon Society, which discussed what it is like to be a birder with accessibility challenges. NAS has rolled out an online resource in the form of Crowdsourcing information which evaluates the accessibility of outdoor locations for birding field trips.

All NY and CT Chapters were greeted by Executive director Ana Paula Tavares who led the chapter round table meeting which was followed by Policy discussions and updates. Keynote speaker, David Yarnold, CEO and President of National Audubon Society, addressed the participants in a presentation on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Audubon policy. Workshops including "Bird-friendly Communities" and Chapter leadership and much more rounded out the Fall 2020 Audubon NY/CT Council meeting. Spring 2021 Audubon NY/CT Council meeting is underway. For more information, please see [www.ny.audubon.org](http://www.ny.audubon.org) and [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org).

## 2020-21 Project Feeder Watch

By S. DaRos

Throughout the winter we encourage our members to become citizen scientists by participating in Project Feeder Watch operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. People like you who love feeding and watching birds contribute to science-based knowledge about bird distribution and abundance throughout the U.S. and Canada. You don't need to be an expert birder to participate. Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate – it's a great safe outdoor project for families, individuals, classrooms, youth groups, and retirement communities. The Project Feeder Watch season runs from November 14, 2020 through April 9, 2021. You can join at any time! Counts are conducted for two consecutive days - there's no minimum number of counts required. For More information, please see [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org).

## Wildlife in Need

If you encounter local wildlife in need please contact a NYS DEC licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Wildlife rehabilitators give of their own resources and volunteer to assist in the proper care of injured and orphaned wildlife. Here are two great resources:

- NYS Wildlife Rehabilitation Council [nyswrc.org/wildlife-resources/](http://nyswrc.org/wildlife-resources/)
- Volunteers For Wildlife [info@volunteersforwildlife.org](mailto:info@volunteersforwildlife.org) 516-674-0982

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS



January 6th 7pm EST via Zoom

[The Audubon Bird Mural Project:  
A Virtual Walking Tour](#)

*The Audubon Bird Mural Project is an impressive effort to create murals of over 300 North American birds. Most of the murals are in the Harlem neighborhoods of Hamilton Heights and Washington Heights, where John James Audubon lived the last ten years of his life. All of the birds painted are threatened by climate change. So the Project is designed not only to display the birds' beauty, but also to make us aware of the challenges that they face. The artworks range from lovely panels that fill in a former window to spectacular murals covering the entire side of a building. We will see about 40 murals, plus Audubon's grave site, in a 50-minute slide presentation with live commentary. There will be time afterwards for Q&A.*

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Montauk Point. 9 AM.

[Winter Water Fowl Walk and Talk](#)

*During this all day trip, Dr. Coby Klein will discuss winter waterfowl about including scoters, eiders, loons, gannets, and numerous pond ducks. Registration: 585-880-0915. 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. **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 sign a waiver; social distancing and mask-wearing will be required; use of hand-sanitizer and hand-washing will be encouraged.***

January 13th 7pm EST via Zoom

[Survival by Degrees with Dr. Brooke Bateman](#)

*Join Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society and Dr. Brooke Bateman, Audubon National's Director of Climate Science, to explore Audubon's newest climate report, Survival by Degrees. Dr. Bateman will walk viewers through findings and challenges of the report as well as how bird communities are being affected by climate change. She will then speak to what individuals, communities and government can do to mitigate climate change. There will be time at the end for Q&A.*

February 10th 7pm EST via Zoom

[Love is in the Air with Coby Klein](#)

*Why do cranes dance? Why do peacocks strut? How do bowerbirds choose their partners? Is it true what I heard about ducks? Come celebrate Valentine's Day with us and find out the answers to these questions and more as Dr. Coby Klein tells us everything we need to know about how birds find mates and raise their families.*

March 10th 7pm EST via Zoom

[Why Birds Sing with Dr. Rindy Anderson](#)

*Why birds sing, and why birdsong helps us understand the hows and whys of animal behavior. Dr. Anderson studies behavioral ecology, which means that she seeks to understand how social, developmental, and environmental factors shape the ways that wild animals behave. In her talk, Dr. Anderson will speak about her research on the social behavior of songbirds and why birdsong is an excellent model system for studying how and why animals do what they do.*

*All programs are virtual until further notice. Sign up for our listserv & view events online ([www.hobaudubon.org/meetings\\_events.asp](http://www.hobaudubon.org/meetings_events.asp)) & follow our social media for virtual programming updates.*



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For \$20 a year, you can be a member of the 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 annual membership dues

\_\_\_\_\_ 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!