



# 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 2  
May - August 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.

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## Newsletter

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## Letter from the Editor

By Alexandra Martinez

**Photo Credit:** BEOC Calendar & cover shot taken by Chris Carrion (right) and Rob & Liz Schwartz (below)

Do you know how we know it's going to be a superb spring in the town of Huntington? When the bald eagles of Centerport bring another set of triplets - yes triplets - to the Mill Pond area. On a gorgeous spring day on April 15, 2022, I had the pleasure of meeting with Rob and Liz Schwartz, two main contributors and organizers of the Bald Eagles of Centerport (BEOC) online (and in-person - within nature) network. Like many others, they have been inspired by the eagles which have become a muse for many as they capture photographic gems of the thus far 13 eaglets that have graced these Centerport skies.

Rob Schwartz explains that "in 2017 the eagles came to this area and they found a red tail hawk's nest and they took it over." Since landing here and becoming official Centerporters, they've had two pairs of eaglets and three sets of triplets. They survived a collapsed nest, a storm that knocked the rest of the nest down, and a squall that snapped their tree in half (which they love to perch on now). Luckily, as Rob said, "they love this spot so much" they decided to build their own nest 100 yards away.

If you think Rob Schwartz sounds incredibly knowledgeable about the eagles, it's because he, along with a strong team of others, facilitate the many of the activities of the BEOC, including a Facebook page with over 21,000 members, a LiveCam linked to YouTube 24/7, and a website with links to events that support this special wildlife. Rob is also an environmental advocate. Not only inspired by the eagles, but knowing that this special pair of birds is such a rarity, Rob works to fight for the maintenance, safety, and resources of the Mill Pond as a means to secure a safe spot for these eagles to remain. There is so much construction in this local area that is affecting the estuaries in the Mill Pond and Spring Pond, areas that are specifically migration points for Canadian Geese. With his local activism alongside the Centerport Harbor Civic Association (CHCA), Rob's hope is that someone will stop allowing construction and other building issues that affect and have depleted the Mill Pond resources our eagles need. For example, April 23rd was a Mill Pond Clean Up Day that CHCA and BEOC worked together to organize.



Like the pair of eagles, the Schwartz' are Centerporters as well. "Liz and I were in our backyard taking care of our bees and we looked up and there was a pair of eagles in the tree. To have a pair sitting in your tree when you open your back door, it changes the way you see things." Everything that Rob, Liz, and many of the contributing members do - whether through photography or activism - is not-for-profit with the priority being the eagles habitat and maintenance of their home here. There are a set of core photographers that are a part of the organization; when they make the calendars and sell them, 100% of the profits go to Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation (WINORR). BEOC

even co-sponsors a special day at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, Rapture Day, with WINORR as its main goal of supporting. Stay tuned for tickets to the event that is happening this October. And be sure to stop by the Chalet Motor Inn where the eagles' nest is,, thank the many photographers for giving you visions of the eagles from what appears like five inches away! And if you see Rob and Liz, give them a special hello and thank you too, for all they do for wildlife in our area. Happy Spring!



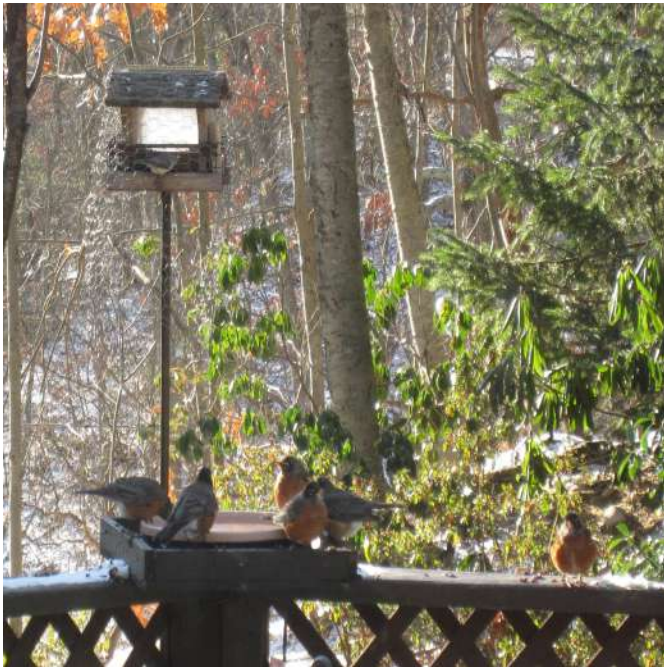
## Important Update Regarding the Bird Flu from the Audubon New York Network

“Bird flu update! “Should I take down my feeders?”” The New York Audubon Network does recommend removing bird feeders when bird flu is active in wild birds in your region. Removing bird feeders as a means of preventing the spread of illness is a great precautionary measure! Since it’s springtime, food resources are generally more abundant anyway. Stay up-to-date via the [NYS Department of Environmental Conservation](#). This is also the perfect time to wash feeders with soap and/or bleach to reduce the chances of infection. For more information, check out posts on the New York Audubon Office FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AudubonNewYork/posts/101596914772445>

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## Seeds for the Future: LINPI Volunteers Mimic Birds

By Julie Sullivan - GoNativeLI.com



Each year in mid January, flocks of robins show up at the heated bird bath attached to my deck railing where they leave red pulp with seeds from their last meal. As the once juicy berries pass through these little bodies, absorbing nutrients, the birds line up on the rail, waiting for a big gulp of water to wash it all down. I can relate. What’s dinner without a drink.

Then one day curiosity drove me to identify the seeds the birds left behind. They were roughly 1/8” long, tan, ridged ovals, and pointed at the tips, resembling American holly berry seeds (according to a google search). And yes, the large, nearby holly tree was loaded with berries, the same shade of red as the pulp on the railing.

This would explain why so many holly seedlings are growing throughout my woods. The seeds were scarified (scratched) as they passed through the robins, and the pulp served as the fertilizer needed to germinate the seeds. So the future will be safe for many generations of robins as they pass through my backyard.

We should mimic nature, not try to out smart it – that’s when man gets into trouble. Introducing exotic plants from around the world has done more damage to our native plants and wildlife than we can ever imagine, costing billions of dollars to rectify.

To save native plants, a local non-profit, the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI), collects wild seeds native to Long Island, then dries and sends them to Cape May, NJ, for cleaning. Next, some go to Staten Island where they are banked for the future. Then these herbaceous and woody plant seeds go to the Suffolk County College’s Eastern Campus where some are scarified and propagated to grow in founder plots to produce more seed. Finally, seeds are sold to the trade, such as Ernst Conservation Seed in Meadville, PA, and local nurseries to sell to home gardeners and others for birds.

All this work must be done because we’ve replaced once open-spaces with roads, houses and lawns. Let’s keep some space cleared of invasive plants and lawns -- but leave the leaves to feed native hollies and other trees -- so birds can plant their food for the future, saving us the cost and the work that they do naturally.

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## 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.

# A Special Thank You

The Huntington- Oyster Bay Audubon Society would like to extend a special thank you to the estate and family of Patrick and Anita Tannuzzo and their daughter Anita for their thoughtful and very generous gift to our organization. We plan to put these funds to good use and we will be providing details in upcoming newsletters. Thank you for your support and faith in our organization. Additionally, thank you to the family of the late Shirley Kime McAneny for their thoughtful donation in Shirley's memory. Our sincere condolences to the McAneny's during this difficult time.

## Are Squirrels Birds? How to Outsmart Them... Or Not

By Julie Sullivan - GoNativeLI.com

I buy lots of suet cakes -- one normally should last a couple of days in my bird feeder. The last time I purchased them a woman by the register was watching her backyard on her cell phone, yelling "SQUIRRELS!" I told her about why I was buying dozens of suet cakes for the birds: One time just after replenishing the suet basket with peanut dough -- everyone's favorite -- a greedy squirrel grabbed the 11.2 ounce cake and leaped off -- or did he fly -- with the entire cake in his mouth. I checked: Our Eastern Gray Squirrels weigh up to 21 ounces. That's like me sprinting with a 70 pound bag of seed in my mouth.

The same store sells red metal bird feeders named "Audubon Squirrel-Resistant Bird Feeder." Of course I bought one and hung it in a tall shrub because it's squirrel proof, right? The two perches are on springs so when a 21 ounce animal perches to eat, the spring shuts the seed dispenser. But instead, my squirrels gently reach down to the seed, bypassing the perch so the dispenser doesn't shut. Yes, let it be.... I decided this is the squirrel feeder now and they'll leave the old bird feeder alone.

Is there any device that's truly squirrel proof? You must watch this 2-part video about squirrels vs. creative professional mechanical engineers at YouTube/MarkRober.



First, Part I:



Then, Part II:



So what's the story about our Eastern Gray Squirrels? Know your enemy. Go online to: <https://syosset.wbu.com/fun-squirrel-facts> then visit Wild Birds Unlimited in Syosset for a selection of squirrel proof feeders. Or cover everything in chicken wire.

Back to the suet problem. I covered the suet basket with chicken wire (poultry netting) tied on with wire twist ties. This worked for a while...until I found the twists undone. Still working on this...

## 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:

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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 FIELD TRIPS

### Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Shu Swamp, 8 AM

Join us as we search for migrant birds and spring ephemeral wildflowers. Directions: From Route 25A in East Norwich, take Route 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left on to Lexington Ave then left onto West Main Street. At the Mill Pond (on the left), bear to the right as if to go to Bayville. At the 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 will end up in the wrong place.

### Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Caumsett State Park, 8 AM

Caumsett State Park is special because it has a variety of habitats that attract many different species of birds. Directions: From Main Street (Route 25A) in the village of Huntington, turn onto West Neck Road and follow north until you see the park on your left. There is a parking fee for those that do not have an Empire Pass. Meet in the parking lot.

### Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Connetquot River State Park, 8 AM

The Preserve maintains 3,473 acres of land and water for the protection and propagation of game birds, fish, and animals. Directions: From the west, get off Sunrise Highway at Oakdale-Bohemia Road, cross over Sunrise, head west and watch for the Park entrance on the right.

### Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Stillwell Woods Park, 8 AM

Stillwell Woods offers a blend of old field and oak barrens communities, the latter of which includes plants and animals that are more typical of habitats farther east on Long Island. Directions: Jericho Tpke to South Woods Rd in Syosset. Go north about 1.5 miles. As soon as you pass Syosset High School, look right for the entrance to the park. Drive past the ball fields to the end of the parking area near the gate to the trails. You may have to park further up if there are soccer games in progress. We will meet in front of the gate by the entrance to the trails.

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

**REGISTRATION IN ADVANCE IS REQUIRED : 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. 🦅 Please visit our website & social media for updates & additions to field trips & programs!*



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### May Program: “Exploring Mangroves With WET FEET.” - May 11, 2022 at 7:00PM - <https://bit.ly/HOBASMay22>

Coastal wetlands protect human communities from big storms and help mitigate climate change through carbon storage. Mangroves, which are tropical trees, are increasingly encroaching into southeastern salt marshes due to climate change, and thus transforming grassy coastal wetlands to forests. Hear about how Dr. Samantha Chapman and her colleagues are using field-based warming experiments to examine how shifting climate and this transformation of vegetation may help wetlands be more resilient to sea level rise. Register in advance via link.

Dr. Samantha Chapman is a professor of biology at Villanova University whose research occurs at the intersection of ecosystem processes and the biotic factors which influence them. She investigates how plant, herbivore, and microbial communities interact and regulate carbon and nutrient cycling. She pursues mechanistic questions and examines the most useful ecosystems to answer them to better inform ecosystem management and stakeholders.

### June Program: “Death Be Not Hungry” - June 8, 2022 at 7:00PM - <https://bit.ly/HOBASJune22>

What bird of prey is majestic, powerful, and awe-inspiring? Of course, it's vultures! Discover the incredible world of the humble vulture, along with other fascinating scavenging birds who turn death into dinner. Explore their indispensable roles in the ecosystem and evolution with Dr. Coby Klein, who will share what they do for us, and what we can do for them. Register in advance via link.

Dr. Coby Klein teaches environmental science and biology at Baruch College and SUNY Old Westbury. A HOBAS director for the past 8 years, Dr. Klein is a birder, bird bander, bird researcher, and general all around bird enthusiast.

→→→ **for Children's Programs & Scholarship Appeal**



## UPCOMING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**“Spring Into Summer” - Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 2:00PM (Rain date: Sunday, June 5)**

Location: Cold Spring Harbor Library

Join us to celebrate the change from Spring into Summer. We will do a craft and take a short hike outside. For ages 4-9, accompanied by a caregiver.

**“Summer Evening Beach Program”- Monday July 18, 2022 (Rain date: Tuesday, July 19)**

Location: Fleets Cove Beach

Let's explore nature at the beach! We will learn about the animals that make their home at the beach and play a game. For ages 4-9, accompanied by a caregiver.

**Call Tess to register in advance for one or both of these programs at 631-896-2872.**



## SUMMER 2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society continues to be committed to providing summer youth scholarships to deserving students. Due to circumstances beyond their control, many children do not have the opportunities to attend impactful outdoor summer learning experiences with the instruction and guidance of dedicated outdoor environmental educators.

HOBAS provides youth scholarships for week- long environmental outdoor educational experiences at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sea Stars Marine Camp and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center. There, experienced educators, and counselors plan hands-on natural science experiences to engage children in learning about the plants, animals, and the environment.

We are seeking **your** support in contributing to the summer 2022 scholarship fund. If you are interested in contributing to HOBAS' scholarship fund and in helping HOBAS continue its mission, please consider **donating by sending a check, payable to HOBAS and address it to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society at P.O. Box 735, Huntington, N.Y. 11743**. Thank you in advance for your generosity and thoughtfulness. By providing this opportunity for young students to discover and explore the wonders of nature, we hope to foster the next generation of nature lovers and conservationists.