



The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society Newsletter

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

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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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Letter from the Editor

By Alexandra Martinez

Duck Butts, or More Appropriately, How I Learned Ducks Find Food

Please don't judge me. Seriously, this is embarrassing. I am honestly not sure what I previously thought. I am also not sure of what I must have learned in school... Surely I was taught this, right? Sorry, science teachers. I must have been doodling during that lesson. Also, I grew up in Commack. Now I live in Centerport. There was a real learning curve.

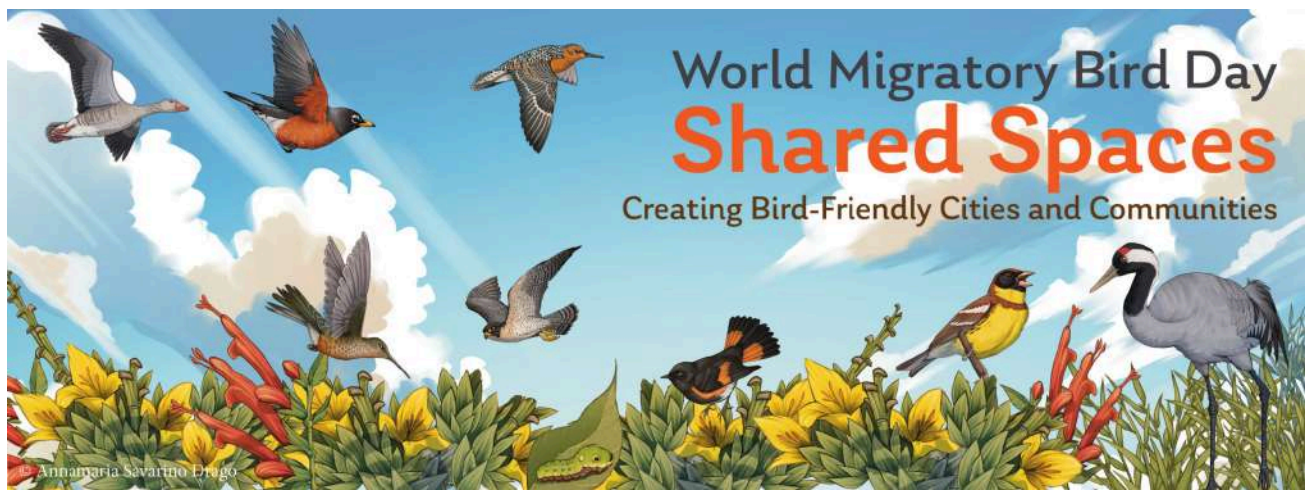
I've had the pleasure of living in Centerport since 2017. It wasn't until 2025 that I realized ducks often dive underwater to forage for food. How did I make this new (to me) discovery? I've been spending a lot more time at the Centerport Mill Pond. I was looking out into the water this past winter and I thought I saw a cat. I could see the roundness of its face and two little triangles of ears popping out of the water. What is a cat doing in the Mill Pond??? That was my first thought. My second thought? I honestly didn't have one. Then, I'd see what I thought was a cat head again... and I think I just chalked it up to some amphibious creature I was unaware of. "What is that?" is a thought that went through my mind many, many times. Until one day I was with my husband and I'm like "What is that? Do you see that cat-like thing in the water? I just don't understand what is going on?"

"What are you talking about? All I see are ducks," my husband replied.

"Do you not see that weird looking animal in the water? A cat? A fox? I can't figure it out!" I exclaimed. "And it just disappeared again!"

"You mean the duck butt, you literal silly goose?"

"The duck butt?" And so began the lesson I probably learned years ago, but through a serious case of mental lapse forgot. I shared this with the Board of Directors at our last meeting. Needless to say, it's kind that they're still letting me edit this newsletter considering my need for a crash course in ornithology. Next up, a "duck butt" guessing game - a wonderful idea by our Education Director, Tess Copa. Hopefully I can get this together for the September issue 😊



Creating Bird Friendly Communities

By Roxana Saravia

This year's conservation theme for World Migratory Bird Day is *Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities*. This has me thinking about the different ways I can create bird-friendly communities in my own backyard. For those who may not be familiar, World Migratory Bird Day is an initiative led by Environment for the Americas. It's a global event that celebrates migratory birds and is observed in May in the spring and October in the fall.

So, what does it mean to build a bird-friendly community? Essentially, it's about sharing our environment in ways that support and protect birds. Fortunately, there are several easy actions you can take right from home:

Plant Native Species and Protect Insects: Native plants offer a range of ecosystem benefits, including food and shelter for birds. Migratory birds rely on the berries, seeds, and nectar from these plants during migration and nesting season. Additionally, native plants attract specific insects that birds feed on, so protecting these insects also helps protect bird populations.

Use Bird-Friendly Glass or Window Stickers: Window collisions are one of the leading threats to birds. One way you can help reduce window strikes is by applying decals or patterns to your windows, making them more visible to birds.

Reduce Light Pollution: Turning off unnecessary lights at night can prevent birds from becoming disoriented during their migrations. Artificial lighting can alter a bird's migration path or interfere with breeding behaviors.

Reduce Single-Use Items: Plastic items like water bottles and balloons often end up in the environment, where birds can ingest or become entangled in them, sometimes with fatal consequences. Reducing your use of these items helps keep their habitats safer.

Keep Pets Leashed or Indoors: Domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, can pose a threat to birds. Keep your pet indoors or on a leash. Be sure to check your local park or beach for closures during the summer to protect nesting habitat and migratory species.

Each of these actions contributes to a healthier, more welcoming environment for birds, especially migratory ones who already face many challenges. Even small changes can have a big impact.

Image Credit: www.migratorybirdday.org

Join us for "Reflections on a Transparent Problem," a presentation by John Turner, Conservation Co-Chair of Four Harbors Audubon Society and Senior Conservation Policy Advocate at Seatuck Environmental Association.

Bird collisions involving windows of residential and commercial buildings are the second leading cause of bird mortality annually in North America and are a leading driver of bird decline with as many as one billion birds dying each year from window strike.

This talk will explore details of the issue and strategies that have been developed to lessen the impact, including what homeowners can do to make their homes "bird friendly."

Registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/2vawh9e3>. Please see the included flyer for additional details.



The Ancient Among Us

By Christine Suter

Join us for “Horseshoe Crabs: They’ve Survived Everything, But Can They Survive Us?,” a presentation by Christine Suter, Vice President of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society and Executive Director of Friends of the Bay, along with guest speaker Cameron Jenness, Education Director of The WaterFront Center and Site Coordinator for the New York Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Network.



Learn about the natural history of horseshoe crabs, current and historic threats to the species, their relationship to migratory shore birds, the use of their blood in the biomedical industry, and conservation efforts.

Find out how you can participate in horseshoe crab monitoring surveys and hear about results from recent surveys in Oyster Bay. Please see the included flyer for the details and registration information.

Volunteers are Egg-sential!

National Audubon - Local Volunteer Opportunities

The “Be a Good Egg” program is an outreach initiative that aims to reduce human disturbance threats to beach-nesting birds on Long Island. Many of the birds we share our shores with are protected and/or endangered, making this work especially important. Through education and outreach we encourage beach-goers to pledge to share the shore with Piping Plovers and other beach-nesting bird species. This year we’ll host our on-the-beach events during the weekends of June, July, and early August at sites on the north and south shores of Long Island. We need up to 5 volunteers at each event and ideally the volunteers will stay the entire time but if not, assisting for a few hours is helpful. Audubon New York staff will be at each event to guide you and answer any questions.

Prior to our outreach events, all volunteers must complete one brief online OR in-person training webinar (only one is required). Our trainings will be on the following dates:

- **Thursday, May 8th at 7pm**, on ZOOM
- **Saturday, May 17th at 3pm** in-person, at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center

Be a Good Egg 2025 Schedule

- Sunday, 6/1: Sunken Meadow State Park
- Saturday, 6/7: Caumsett State Park
- Saturday 6/14: Centre Island Beach, Town of Oyster Bay
- Sunday, 6/15: Sunken Meadow State Park (Rain date)
- Sunday, 6/22: West Meadow Beach, Town of Brookhaven
- Saturday, 7/5: Lido Beach Town Park, Town of Hempstead
- Sunday, 7/6: Sunken Meadow State Park
- *Wednesday, 7/9: Sunken Meadow State Park Beach Cleanup
- *Thursday, 7/10: Sunken Meadow Beach State Park Cleanup (Rain date)
- Saturday, 7/12: Stehli Town Beach, Town of Oyster Bay
- Friday, 7/18: Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
- Saturday, 7/19: Caumsett State Park
- Sunday 7/20: Point Lookout Town Park, Town of Hempstead
- Saturday, 7/26: Sunken Meadow State Park
- Sunday, 7/27: Caumsett State Park (rain date)
- Saturday, 8/2: Jones Beach Nature Center
- Saturday, 8/3: West Meadow Beach, Town of Brookhaven
- Saturday, 8/9: Sunken Meadow State Park (Rain date)



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



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY "Celebrate Summer"

Come celebrate the Summer Equinox with us in this free after school program! We will learn about what our native wildlife does in summer, make a craft, and go out for a hike on the trails, weather permitting.

Thursday, June 19, 2025
(Rain Date: Friday, June 20)
4:30PM - 6:00PM

Cold Spring Harbor Library
95 Harbor Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY

**Registration is a must. To register,
please call or text Tess: 631-896-2872.**

Mindful Bird Outings

Join the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society for a Mindful Bird Outing on the last Saturday of each month this summer! Take a peaceful pause from your routine and reconnect with nature through slow birding. Bring your binoculars, some water, and a small chair or stool if you'd like to sit and soak it all in.

Date & Times:

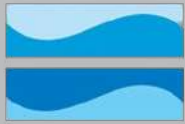
May 31, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
June 28, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
July 26, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
August 30, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
September 27, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Location:

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

To RSVP email:

HOBAS.programs@gmail.com



Friends OF THE Bay
PROTECTING OYSTER BAY & COLD SPRING HARBOR



**Join Friends of the Bay, The WaterFront Center and
The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society for**

**Horseshoe Crabs:
They've Outlived Everything,
But Can They Outlive Us?**

with **Christine Suter**

Executive Director of Friends of the Bay

Vice President of The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

and **Cameron Jenness**

Education Director of The WaterFront Center

Site Coordinator for The New York Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Network

Wednesday, May 28 at 6 p.m.

at The WaterFront Center

1 West End Ave., Oyster Bay

Learn about horseshoe crabs and horseshoe crab conservation

Find out how to participate in local horseshoe crab monitoring surveys

**This event is free but registration is required at
www.friendsofthebay.org/events**



Join the Huntington-Oyster
Bay Audubon Society for

"REFLECTIONS ON A TRANSPARENT PROBLEM"

presented by **John Turner** the
Senior Conservation Policy
Advocate at Seatuck
Environmental Association

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

This program will be accessible
in-person and via **zoom**.

The in-person presentation will
be held at the **Theodore
Roosevelt Sanctuary and
Audubon Center** in Oyster Bay.

.....
The program will discuss the
threats window strikes pose to
birds. Learn what solutions are
available to help our feathered
friends.

Limited in-person seating -
registration required!



To register
scan the
QR code

