



The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society Newsletter

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

Volume 11, Issue 3
September - December 2023

Letter from the Editor

By Alexandra Martinez

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 Officers

President & Vice President:
Opportunity available

Recording Secretary:
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Michael Frank
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Summer comes to an end on September 23rd when we enter the Fall season. I hope this summer season was all you hoped for and more - although I definitely wished for a little less humidity and a little less rainy days. Summer is a time for rest for many - especially school teachers like me! But for some, like bees, it is a time of busy, busy work!

Whether you have the summer off, your company gives you Summer Fridays, or you are working throughout the summer like is the norm for many, I do hope that you “slow down” during this time and enjoy the summer months for what they are - the most beautiful and enjoyable time of the year in my opinion! There are so many beautiful flowers to admire, and landscaped yards to photograph, and new plants to learn about, and so many different creatures to spot - in your yard, on walks, and in nature parks.

I was lucky enough to slow down for a moment before leaving for my weekly farm shift at the John Gardiner Farm Stand when I noticed a black swallowtail butterfly fluttering oddly about at the end of my driveway in Centerport. Stopping to admire this beautiful creature and quizzically stare at its erratic pattern, I turned for a moment and it was then that I was able to spot a HUMMINGBIRD on my MONARDA DIDYMA that I purchased a couple of years ago from the HOBAS/ReWild Native Plant Sale.

It was truly a special moment. I actually sent out a few exclamatory texts and did have to look up the symbolism of seeing a hummingbird (because as an English teacher/Librarian that’s just who I am) and it turns out that seeing a hummingbird is very special. To some, it seems challenging times are over and healing can begin, while to others hummingbirds can be a sign of hope and good luck, and yet to others the creatures can be the spirit of the loved one. I’ll take any and all of this symbolism as the reason I saw my very first hummingbird in my yard after a rather trying July! I hope you enjoy what is left of summer! Stay well! And I hope you spot a hummingbird too before the season is over. I know I’ll be on the lookout now.

Announcements

Welcoming Our Newest Board Members

In our last newsletter we introduced you to **Christine Suter** who joined the HOBAS board at the beginning of the year as acting recording secretary. Christine has now officially been voted in as recording secretary and is looking forward to working with Audubon's growing network to promote bird conservation on Long Island. You can read more about Christine in our May-August 2023 HOBAS newsletter at www.hobaudubon.org.

Greg Richter is an environmental scientist and renewable energy expert with over 25 years of experience. Greg currently runs *Sunlogic*, a residential solar company located in Melville, New York. Greg discovered his love for birding and native landscapes at an early age through his mother and grandmother's garden. Greg's sense of adventure and a love for the outdoors has led him to a lifetime of work caring for and protecting our natural world. He holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Management from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Greg is an avid bird enthusiast and is passionate about native landscapes, organic gardening and wetlands. When Greg's not spending time-saving the planet, you can find him at home cooking or gardening at his home in the Southdown neighborhood of Huntington or out skiing, hiking, cycling, practicing yoga or traveling.



Pictured here are both Greg and Christine at a Friends of the Bay event. Welcome to the team you two! And thank you, for all that you do for HOBAS and our respective communities!

Nominating Committee Seeks Like-Minded Leaders

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (HOBAS), formerly Huntington Audubon Society, 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, established in 1963 as an all-volunteer, not-for-profit, 501 (c)3 chapter of National Audubon Society 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.

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

Goodbye & Thank You, Richard (Dick) T. Furman 1927-2023



Thank you, Dick, for your many years of support, friendship, and laughter. We will remember Dick in the field while birding, for his joyous laughter, and for the great presence he brought at HOBAS meetings. Dick will be sorely missed. "Like a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in time of sorrow." —Robert Louis Stevenson

Birdy Bits

Chimney Swift

The Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, often referred to as the “flying cigar” can be seen and heard in the summer skies over eastern cities and towns. Be sure to keep an ear out for their distinctive, high-pitched chattering calls. Chimney Swifts breed in urban and suburban habitats across the eastern half of the United States and southern Canada. Chimney Swifts nest primarily in chimneys and other artificial sites with vertical surfaces. The nest is a half-saucer of loosely woven twigs, stuck together and cemented to the chimney wall with the bird’s glue-like saliva. Chimney Swifts eat airborne insects. Feeding on the wing, they capture flies, bugs, bees, wasps, ants, mayflies, stoneflies, beetles, caddisflies, and other insects. Chimney Swifts spend their lives airborne, except when they are roosting or on the nest. At the end of summer, they gather into large groups to migrate to South America. During migration, as many as 10,000 swifts may circle in a tornado-like flock at dusk and funnel into a roosting chimney to spend the night (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds). Keep your eyes and ears to the sky and watch for those amazing flying cigars! We hope that “Birdy Bits” will inspire you to learn more about the birds found in our area.



Adult Chimney Swift at the nest. Photo: US Park Service.

2023 Summer Scholarships - Thank You!



This summer, Canon U.S.A., Inc. generously contributed toward HOBAS’ summer camp scholarship fund. With this support, HOBAS was able to provide more youngsters with the opportunity to attend a weeklong session at a local nature camp summer program. Students who received summer nature camp scholarships enjoyed learning about their natural surroundings with the guidance of experienced outdoor educators and volunteers. Children engaged in outdoor, hands-on activities and environmental ecology-related experiences while having fun through interactive games, crafts, and peer-to-peer relationship building.

With the generous donations made by our membership, other donations, and a partnership with Canon U.S.A., Inc., HOBAS provided 23 scholarships to youngsters. Scholarship recipients participated in engaging nature-based camp experiences at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center’s Summer Nature Camp, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sea Stars Marine Camp, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Sea Explorers Marine Camp. Scholarships are coordinated through the partners at these three camps and their respective community outreach networking. We are grateful to have these amazing collaborations with people who are passionate about seeing youngsters engage in meaningful outdoor educational experiences. Enhancing HOBAS’ mission to educate and inspire the next generation to appreciate and care for birds, plants, wildlife, and habitats is something we feel strongly about. Thank you to our friends at Canon, our members, and for all donations made in support of HOBAS’ summer 2023 scholarship initiative!



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

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Membership Application

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Please consider joining or renewing your membership to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, a local, all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) chapter. Your membership directly supports HOBAS' mission to advocate for birds, wildlife and habitat through conservation efforts and educational outreach. You will receive our newsletter and an open invitation to field trips and events. Thank you for supporting HOBAS with your membership!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Membership Details:

New HOBAS member, chapter only annual \$20.00 **Renewing HOBAS member**, chapter only annual \$20.00

Additional Donation _____

Please make your check payable to: **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society**

Send your check and application to: **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 735

Huntington, NY 11743-0735

Bird Engagement Initiatives Continue

By Simone DaRos

Birder Borrow Bags

Beginner birders are invited to borrow a beginner birder borrow bag from Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. **Inside each beginner birder borrow bag is a pair of Nikon Prostaff binoculars, a Kaufman bird I.D. field guide, and a birder's journal.** Bags can be loaned to you for two -week intervals. We ask that you take care of the equipment and return the items in good condition so that others may use them. **Please contact Christine Suter at christine-suter@live.com**, and arrange for a pick- up and return time for the birding borrow bag.

Bird Window-Collision Prevention Borrow Bag

You may request a bird window-collision prevention borrow bag which is filled with the resources you will need to create an at-home window treatment designed to deter birds from colliding into your home windows. Inside each bag you will find a binder with directions and resources, decals, bird tape, and adhesive dots to apply to your windows. Properly applying the temporary adhesives will help to deter birds from accidentally flying into your glass windows. **Please contact HOBAS' Conservation Chairperson, Julie Sullivan, at jsllvn768@gmail.com**, and arrange to borrow a bird window- collision prevention borrow bag. Please return any unused materials so we can replenish the bag for the next user.

Bird Identification Posters Available for Park and Preserve Kiosks

If you know of a park or preserve kiosk that you would like to enhance with a laminated bird I.D. poster you will need to obtain permission from the park/preserve supervisor and coordinate access to the kiosk where you will display the bird I.D. poster. Please complete and mail the application for a laminated bird identification poster to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, N.Y. 11743. For more information, please **email Tess, at tesicopa@yahoo.com**.

Application for Laminated Bird I.D. Poster	
Name of Applicant:	_____
Email:	_____ Telephone: _____
Mailing Address:	_____
Location of the kiosk where the laminated bird I.D. poster will be displayed:	_____ _____
Park/Preserve Supervisor:	_____
Circle one poster:	Sibley's Backyard Birds of Eastern North America (24"x36") Where's Wildlife Backyard Birds of New York (20"x30")
Please fill out and mail this application to: Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.	
Contact: Email Tess at tesicopa@yahoo.com .	

Please share photos and stories with HOBAS' newsletter editor: ms.alexandra.martinez@gmail.com.

🦅 UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS 🦅

Sun. 9/3/23, 9 A.M.: Jamaica Bay NWR, Queens, NY.

It's Labor Day weekend and you know what that means: it's shorebird season and the East Pond is the place to see migrating sandpipers, plovers, and much more. Directions: Head south on Cross Bay Blvd. and park in the lot at the south end of the Refuge. Bring a scope if you have one and wear long pants to protect against ticks.

Sun. 10/15/23, 10 A.M.: David A. Sarnoff Preserve, Riverside, NY.

October on Long Island means it's buck moth season. These Pine Barrens specialists only come out for a couple of weeks in the autumn so this is our best chance to find them. Directions: From the LIE, take exit 71 and then continue east on Route 24 toward Riverhead. After about 4 miles, turn right onto Route 104 South (Riverleigh Ave.) at the traffic circle in Riverhead. Head south for approximately 2.3 miles until you reach the parking area on the right.

Sun. 11/26/23, 9 A.M.: Wertheim NWR, Shirley, NY.

It's turkey time! No, not to eat, to observe. Wild turkeys live on Long Island and the WNWR is a great place to discover these majestic birds. Directions: From the LIE, take Exit 68S to William Floyd Parkway (CR 46S). Make a right onto Montauk Highway (CR 80W), followed by a left onto Smith Road. Follow Smith Road for approximately one-quarter mile (crossing over railroad tracks) - the Refuge entrance is on the right.

Sun. 12/24/23, 11 A.M.: Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, NY. It's our annual seal & duck walk to one of NYC's wildest places. Besides the harbor seals, this park is a waterfowl hotspot and one of the best winter birding locations in the 5 Boroughs. Directions: Take the Hutchinson River Parkway to Exit 3 (Orchard Beach/City Island). At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Orchard Beach Rd then turn left. We will meet in the northeast corner of the lot.

REGISTRATION IN ADVANCE IS REQUIRED WITH DR. COBY KLEIN : 585-880-0915.

All participants must [print and sign a waiver](#) to be provided upon arrival

🦅 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS 🦅

Fall Festivities!

Saturday October 7th 11:00am-1:00pm

(Rain date: Sunday, October 8th)

Cold Spring Harbor Library

Join us as we learn about how animals prepare for the Fall season. We will make a seasonal craft and go for a walk in the woods outside. For children ages 5-9, accompanied by a caregiver. Please call 632-896-2872 to register with Tess Copa.

Please visit our [website](#) & [social media](#) for updates & additions to field trips & programs!

Field Notes by Coby Klein

On July 30th HOBAS traveled to the Cranberry Bog Preserve in Riverhead to get a taste of the Pine Barrens. One of the unique features of this park is the small stands of Atlantic white cedar swamp. Once more widespread on Long Island, not many cedars remain thanks to logging and fire suppression. One of our trip mates, Ezra (9), had never been to a swamp before. 'It was cool seeing all the moss, and fungi, and big trees,' he said. He also noticed a small green frog in a pool that formed at the base of one of the cedars. 'It was awesome because of how well he blended in.'

Positive Feedback!



The Parrotta Family borrowed the beginning birder bags on July 8th and 9th, 2023 when they took a family trip out to Cedar Point Park. This was the Parrotta boys (ages 5 and 7) first camping trip and you can see them using their new accessories - books for the journey as well as binoculars! Thank you for writing in the journal and sharing your east end discoveries, including: two mallard ducks swimming in a marsh, a great egret, common terns, and a little blue heron standing on a buoy!



Annual BIRD SEED FUNDRAISER

October 28th, 2023 10am-4pm

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon

Early Bird pick up: Wednesday Oct. 25th- Friday Oct. 27th 10am-6pm

Wild Birds Unlimited, 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset 11791 (516)-226-1780

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail _____

Qty	Description	Price Per Unit	Total Price
	20 lb No Mess Blend	59.00	
	20 lb Deluxe Blend	39.00	
	20 lb Black Oil Sunflower	39.00	
	40 lb Black Oil Sunflower	71.00	
	20 lb Whole Sunflower Kernels	60.00	
	20 lb Safflower Seed	49.00	
	20 lb Nyjer (thistle) seed	49.00	
	20 lb Finch Blend	54.00	
	10 lb Finch Blend	32.00	
	20 lb Shelled Peanut Splits	48.00	
	Case (12) of 11.75oz Naturally Nuts Suet	36.00	
	Case (12) of 11.75oz Nuts/ Berries Suet Cakes	40.00	
	Subtotal		
	<i>Seniors 10% discount</i>		
	<i>Additional contribution</i>		
	Grand Total		

To download additional order forms and for more information about our events and programs, visit us at www.hobaudubon.org

Thank you for supporting us!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon's conservation and education initiatives.

Please circle day you plan to pick up your order:

Wednesday, October 25th

Thursday, October 26th

Friday, October 27th

Saturday, October 28th

Orders must be received by Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS - PLEASE RECORD ORDER ON BACK OF THIS SLIP

Please pick up your birdseed order in Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset. Your birdseed will be transferred to your vehicle by our staff and volunteers. **Seed not picked up by 4pm Oct 28th will be donated.** Extra seed, as well as gift items and bird feeding supplies can be found in the store. **If using GPS, enter 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset for directions.** Please make check payment by Oct 14th, 2023 payable to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. Mail to:

HOBAS Bird Seed Sale

PO Box 735

Huntington, NY 11743

Please contact Michael Frank, HOBAS Treasurer, at (631) 252-1082 should you have any questions.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon - Annual Bird Seed Fundraiser

Seed Descriptions:

- **No Mess Blend**– A high-quality, no-waste mix without shells. Contains 65% medium sunflower chips, 15% diced/chopped/small peanut pieces, 10% hulled white millet. Will attract most winter feeder birds including nuthatches, woodpeckers, cardinals, juncos, white throat sparrows and titmice.
- **Deluxe Blend** – A combination of high-oil content seeds with shells. 63% black oil sunflower, 25% white millet, 10% safflower, 2% striped sunflower. attracts a large variety of birds.
- **Black Oil Sunflower** – A favorite of almost all seed-eating birds, your feathered friends will happily fill up on this high fat seed.
- **Shelled Sunflower** – Whole sunflower seed kernels. No shells, **no waste**. An excellent feed. Everyone loves this.
- **Safflower Seed** – The cardinal’s choice! Glossy white seeds are the **favorite food of cardinals**. Also eaten by chickadees, finches, and doves. Ignored by squirrels, starlings, and blackbirds. An excellent seed for year-round feeding.
- **Nyjer (Thistle) Seed** – Tiny black seeds for goldfinches and pine siskins. Nyjer must be placed in a special feeder with tiny holes. Nyjer is ignored by squirrels and starlings. Use your Nyjer feeder year-round.
- **Finch Blend:** A 50/50 mix of Nyjer and fine sunflower chips, which helps attract even more birds to your finch feeder such as chickadees and downy woodpeckers.
- **Shelled Peanut Splits** – Peanuts are the best single source of protein and fat for birds and a great addition to the choices you offer in your yard. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, blue jays, tufted titmice and chickadees love this!
- **Suet Cakes** – Each 11.75oz cake fits in a wire suet cage. High protein and fat content with no waste, no fillers and real fruit! Woodpeckers love suet and so do other birds!

Reminder - All orders due by Saturday, October 14th, 2023. Thank you for your continued support!

It is always a good idea to keep feeders clean by following these steps:

1. Clean feeders and bird baths with soap and water at least once a week, then disinfect with a 10% bleach solution to prevent potential infectious disease spread between birds and other wildlife.
2. After cleaning, rinse well with water and allow to air-dry.
3. When handling bird feeders and baths be sure to wear disposable gloves and wash your hands when finished.
4. Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a standard precaution.
5. To dispose of dead birds, place them in a sealable plastic bag and discard with household trash. This will prevent disease transmission to other birds and wildlife.

Source: NY Audubon

For Customer Use: Record your order here.

Qty	Description	Total
	20 lb No Mess LM Blend	
	20 lb Deluxe Blend	
	20 lb Black Oil Sunflower	
	40 lb Black Oil Sunflower	
	20 lb Shelled Sunflower	
	20 lb Safflower Seed	
	20 lb Nyjer (thistle) Seed	
	20 lb Finch Blend	
	10 lb Finch Blend	
	20 lb Peanut Splits	
	Case (12) Naturally Nuts Suet	
	Case (12) Naturally Nuts Suet	
	Case (12) Nuts & Berries Suet	

Customer Reminder

Please circle the day you plan to pick up your order

Wednesday, October 26th

Thursday, October 27th

Friday, October 28th

Saturday, October 29th