

# The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Newsletter

Serving from Fort Salonga in Suffolk Co. to Oyster Bay and Centre Island in Nassau Co.  
Oct 2020 - Dec 2020

Volume 8, No. 2



## **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: THE CORONAVIRUS EDITION**

*By Brendan Fogarty*

There's only one place to start with this newsletter, and that is that we are sorry to have missed an issue! As an organization that is so centered around community activities, we have had to make adjustments in the wake of the pandemic just like the rest of us. We hope everyone is doing okay. The board has not been meeting in their regular capacity, but were able to meet via video calls monthly.

We thank those of you who have been able to follow along with us online. We had our first-ever virtual program back on August 26th. We explored Long Island's coastal wildlife in "Seaside Birding with the Fish Guy" by Chris Paparo. This novel event went well; it was exciting and something we could be proud of.

**We will be hosting more virtual programs in the future. Our monthly field trips and all other in-person activities are suspended until further notice.**

Uncertainties in the world have translated into uncertainties in our scheduling, so we encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/hobaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/hobaudubon), our website [hobaudubon.org](https://www.hobaudubon.org), or our Instagram [@hobaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/hobaudubon).

In this issue we are providing a few salient updates. We are still hard at work in our gardens and were able to provide some lucky kids with "the best day ever". We have information on our annual birdseed sale, which is only a few weeks away already. Last but certainly not least, we have had a numbers of wonderful volunteers stepping up to the plate to help the board and its various committees. Four of them were sworn in as directors this summer! We are thrilled to have them on board. We also have a few goodbyes to three directors whose terms ended in June. One of them is yours truly. It has been a delight to share updates with our loyal readers, and I look forward to being involved in new capacities in the future. Thank you all.



*Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper migrating from Canada to S. America. Photo: Brendan Fogarty*

### **Spotlight: Field Sparrow**

By October, sparrow migration is peaking. Field Sparrows are one of the plainest species and can be confusing to encounter. But give them your neighborly greetings because they bred in our chapter territory this year!

Breeding Bird Atlas volunteers recorded two pairs at the Red Cote Preserve in Oyster Bay. They depend on grassland habitat that is prime for agriculture or development, so their population has been struggling both here and across the country.

Sparrows like these make up for their modest garb with songs, which are longer and more complex than most other birds here. The Field Sparrow's song is a sweet note, repeated and accelerating like a bouncing ball. Listen for them at the nearest meadow next summer and let us know if you hear one!

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### **KEEP UP WITH US ONLINE!**

Web: [www.hobaudubon.org](https://www.hobaudubon.org)

[facebook.com/hobaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/hobaudubon)

Instagram: [@hobaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/hobaudubon)

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### **GET INVOLVED!**

Email a board member today!

**Huntington-Oyster Bay  
Audubon Society, Inc.**

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

**Officers**

**President:** Open

**Vice-president:** Open

**Recording Secretary:** Melissa Sinka

*Melissa.ASinka@gmail.com*

**Treasurer:** Michael Frank

*vonfranz07@gmail.com*

**Directors**

Tess Copa *tesicopa@yahoo.com*

Simone DaRos 516-987-7136

Sonia Garrido *sonia\_gp@yahoo.com*

Coby Klein, *cklein@cc.cuny.edu*

Julie Sullivan, *jslhn768@gmail.com*

Alexandra Martinez,

*ms.alexandra.martinez@gmail.com*

**Committees**

**Children's Programs:** Tess Copa

**Communications:** Sonia Garrido

**Conservation:** Julie Sullivan

**Field Trips:** Sonia Garrido

**Field Trip Leaders:** Coby Klein, Blair Broughton

**Fundraising:** Michael Frank

**Hospitality:** Open

**MAPS Banding Program:** Open

**Membership, Outreach, Programs:** Open

**Newsletter Editors:** Brendan Fogarty, Alexandra Martinez

**Volunteer Corps:** Open

**Website:** Big Express Website Design

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!**

**Melissa Sinka – Secretary**

Melissa Sinka is a designer with a passion for conservation and the environment. She spends her free time on the beaches of Long Island and in the mountains of Upstate, NY, observing and volunteering for wildlife. She plans to attend graduate school for sustainability studies and is working towards living a 100% zero waste life style. Melissa joined the HOBAS Board of Directors this July 2020 as our Recording Secretary and member of the Program Committee to give back to her local bird and human communities alike.



**Michael Frank- Treasurer**

Michael has spent the last 38 years working in the Financial Services industry in various finance roles. As his full-time career winds down he's looking forward to leveraging his lifelong interest in conservation and animal welfare and is pleased to assume his role as the new Treasurer of HOBAS, in July 2020.



**Julie Sullivan – Conservation Chair**

After running her non-profit solid waste reduction organization for 20 years, Julie Sullivan presently sits on Huntington's Conservation Board, restoring Carpenter Farm Park's meadows to native plants. She also runs her blog, Go Native LI, which is focused around restoring native plant biodiversity. Following a HOBAS donation of 40 native shrubs, Julie became involved with Audubon's Plants for Birds, and happily anticipates serving on HOBAS' Board of Directors as the Conservation Chair .



**Alexandra Martinez – Newsletter Editor**

Alexandra Martinez is a school librarian and avid Long Island lover. Whether it's enjoying the Town of Huntington beaches, hiking local trails, or getting involved in the Huntington Beach and Centerport community, Alexandra loves the north shore, all its gorgeous views, and the plethora of wildlife she's surrounded by. Alexandra joined the HOBAS Board as of this September and looks forward to her new role in co-editing the HOBAS newsletter.



**Membership is just \$20 per year.** Your membership directly supports HOBAS' mission to advocate for wildlife and habitat through educating others at our programs and walks and in engaging in conservation projects and advocacy both locally and beyond. **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society appreciates your support and we thank you!**

Membership-\$20 \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive alerts and notices? email \_\_\_\_\_

## SEASTARS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

By Simone DaRos

This summer was filled with uncertainty about children attending in-person camp, but luckily through the collaboration with Tracy Marcus, Marine Educator and Sea Explorers Marine Camp Director, HOBAS provided a family of five with a safe, in-person, Seastars Family scholarship and shark conservation take-home kits. The family of five with three children ages 4,6, and 10 spent several hours with an educator, at the Babylon site, exploring the marsh, seining the shoreline, investigating the touch tanks and lab area. During this great experience the children said it was the best day they had ever had. Their parents were so grateful to have had this hands-on, safe summer educational and fun hands-on experience for their children. At the conclusion of the day, the children took home a shark conservation kit which contained supplies for a take-home shark craft, supplies to make necklaces, marine coloring books, shark teeth, and other goodies to have fun with at home. This Summer Family Sea Explorers experience was most certainly a great time for all!



## GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

By the Board

Three of our board members had terms that ended in June. **Brendan Fogarty** had been involved in HOBAS since he was in High School, about ten years ago. He joined the board after college and held the roles of secretary since late 2016 and newsletter editor since early 2017. **Andy Burke** is a community man who led our biggest fundraising initiatives, including our bird seed and plant sales. He became a director in 2017. Lastly we say farewell to **Angelo Garcia III**, who joined the team last year as our Treasurer. Angelo greatly helped rapidly modernize our financial system. Every person on our board has provided a distinct and lasting impact and has positively shaped our organization. It is uplifting to see the real results from a little dedicated team work. We all appreciated what you have done. Don't become strangers!

## PLANTING FOR BIRDS

By Julie Sullivan

From February through March 2019, as a Town of Huntington native plant restoration project volunteer, my weeding partner and I uprooted 32 very large root crowns, and numerous smaller invasive multiflora rose shrubs, plus many vines in a 61 foot long hedgerow. This hedgerow separates the upper and lower meadows of Huntington's 12.4 acre Carpenter Farm Park — formerly a horse farm on Old Field Road across from Oldfield Middle School. Concurrently, our Town Board passed a resolution accepting a HOBAS \$800 donation of native shrubs for the Park.

After hand-cultivating the 900 square foot space in April, we laid out a plan for a May planting of 40 native Long Island shrubs, consisting of 11 straight (non-cultivar) species from Long Island Natives in Eastport.

Because the soil has a high clay content, it retains water, making it very muddy in spring. Thus the species selected were limited to semi-wet conditions. Once planted and mulched, we carried in buckets of water weekly from June through September to keep the plants well watered in the summer heat. And since we didn't mulch the space between plants, weeding became another weekly task.

Today a year later, the plants are beautiful, lush and healthy. In the space between the shrubs native path rush and soft rush, plus fleabane and other native perennials are established, keeping the invasives at bay.

For more plant content, please visit hobaudubon's Native Plants Series on its Instagram and Facebook sites. And for more information, check out Carpenter Farm Park's Restoration at [www.GoNativeLI.com](http://www.GoNativeLI.com).

## AMAZON SMILE

By Simone DaRos

Amazon Smile is a simple and cost free way to support your favorite charity. Instead of logging into Amazon.com please log into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and consider choosing the Huntington Oyster Bay Audubon Society as your supported charity. There is no cost to you and you will get exactly the same low prices and great selection you would get when logging into Amazon.com. For every dollar that you spend on eligible purchases Amazon will donate .5% to your chosen charity. It's a great, easy and cost free way to support the good work at HOBAS.



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### **BOARD MEETINGS**

We are not meeting in person during the coronavirus but we are meeting virtually! If you want to join our video chat meeting, please email Melissa ([Melissa.A.Sinka@gmail.com](mailto:Melissa.A.Sinka@gmail.com)) so she can share the link and password with you. Dates are subject to change.

**October 21**

**November 18**

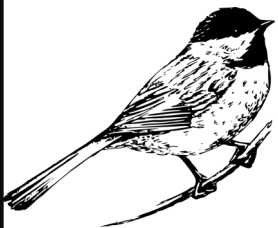
**December 16**

### **STOP AND SHOP COMMUNITY BAG**

*By Simone DaRos*

HOBAS thanks our local Stop and Shop in Huntington and in East Northport for selecting us to be part of their Stop and Shop Community Bag Program during January and June. Sarah Scott, Community Bag Program Manager, contacted HOBAS with the generous and thoughtful news to have HOBAS receive a \$1.00 donation for each \$2.50 Stop and Shop reusable bag sold. We thank all of the shoppers who purchased a Stop and Shop reusable bag and who participated in the Community Bag Program. Please remember to visit your local Stop and Shop while using your own reusable bag or purchase one from Stop and Shop. By doing so, one is supporting the environment along with supporting a local community-based non-profit organization at the same time. Thank you Stop and Shop for your support!

### **BIRD SEED SALE**



Save the date, it's that time of year again! We will be hosting our annual bird seed sale. **Please read, fill out, and mail the order form insert!**

Orders will be available for pickup from **Wed Oct 21 to Sat Oct24.**

Pickup at Wild Birds Unlimited, 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset.

**Order slips must be received by OCTOBER 8th!**

Please call Michael at **631-252-1082** if you have any questions. Thank you!



***I FOUND AN INJURED ANIMAL!***

*Please contact **Volunteers for Wildlife***

**516-674-0982** [volunteersforwildlife.org](http://volunteersforwildlife.org)

**Put this number in your phone RIGHT NOW!**

