

The Huntington Audubon Society  
*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*



# killdeer

August-September-October 2008

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

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## Birdathon 2008 - Thank you for helping us achieve our goal! *Congratulations to all our winners!*



Thanks to the generous support of our friends and members, we not only reached our goal of \$7,000, we **SURPASSED IT**. When the donations were finished being

tallied, we had raised \$8,000!

As always, Birdathon was a fun day. We started out at 6:45 AM on May 18 on the trails of Alley Pond Park and ended the day at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Our group ranged in age from 15 to 70 years old. There was a threat of rain all day and thankfully it held off until we neared the closing of the day. At the end four brave souls finished up the last two hours in the rain. Our grand total for the day was 114 birds.

Many thanks to the team members and sponsors of Birdathon 2008. We would like to thank our generous donors for the sponsorship prizes: Robert Berger (no relation to Berger Brothers Camera Shop) who donated the \$500 cash prize, along with the Mark Garrison Salon, Fiddleheads Restaurant, Wild Honey Restaurant, Berger Brothers Camera Shop, Stella Miller, Simone DaRos, Charlie Skinas, and Mike O'Connor, author of the book *Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches?* and owner of the Birdwatchers General Store in Cape Cod, MA.

The happy winners were: Donna Farkas (\$500 cash), Sue Byrnes (\$150 gift card to Fiddleheads Restaurant), and Patricia L. Pantazis (Bushnell Powerview 7x35 binoculars).

The folks sponsoring the team members were not the only ones who had a chance to win prizes. Team

members competed to see who could bring in the most donations. Ginger Mahoney placed second, winning a \$100 gift card to the Red Door Salon and a "Talk Birdy to Me" Huntington Audubon tee shirt. Bill Reeves was our big winner, bringing home a \$300 gift certificate to the Mark Garrison Salon, a \$50 gift card to American Birding Association Sales, a beautiful carved wooden killdeer, created by very talented HAS member Charlie Skinas, a \$25 gift card to Borders, a \$50 gift card to Wild Honey Restaurant, a signed copy of Mike O'Connor's book along with an HAS "Talk Birdy to Me" tee shirt.

Part of the proceeds from Birdathon 2008 will be used for a full Hog Island Audubon Camp scholarship for young birder Brent Brottkamp to attend a seven-day program in Maine. Brent is a 15-year old high school student who is a knowledgeable and devoted birder and we are proud to have him as a member.

Everyone's efforts were much appreciated and we look forward to Birdathon 2009.

## About Our Bird Seed Sale by Sharon Brody



We want to thank all of you who have patronized our Bird Seed sale in the past. For some of our customers, that means for decades. Huntington Audubon has set a **tentative date** for this year's sale for **Saturday, December 6, 2008**. Please watch for further information in the next issue of the *Killdeer*. Unfortunately, due to conditions beyond our control (flooding, crops converted to corn for ethanol, high fuel costs) we may not be able to obtain seed. If we can find a vendor, prices will most likely be higher. HAS appreciates all your understanding and support.



**NOTICE: Due to a scheduling conflict, the OCTOBER membership meeting will be held on TUESDAY, October 7, 2008.**

**September Program**

**Wednesday, September 10  
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

***Birds of Central Park***

Central Park is one of the top birding spots in North America. Each spring and fall flocks of birders can be seen searching for songbirds that stop off in Central Park to refuel and recuperate during their journey to and from their breeding grounds in North America's northern forests. From the brightly-colored warblers to the ducks, owls, hawks, and resident birds that breed in the park, there are over 200 species of birds in Central Park. Cal Vornberger is a professional wildlife photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines, and newspapers around the world. He is the author of the award winning book, *The Birds of Central Park*.

**First Grade Ornithologists?  
by Simone DaRos**

The May Huntington Audubon Board of Directors meeting began with an informative presentation of the Red Knot migration followed by another interesting presentation comparing the Turkey Vulture with the Ferruginous Hawk. While the topics themselves were impressive the presenters were even more outstanding. The presenters were two first grade students from Oakwood Primary Center in the South Huntington Union Free School District.

Daniel Czop, a first grade student from Ms. DaRos' class, spoke without a script about the incredible journey of the Red Knot and its relationship with the horseshoe crab. Daniel skillfully used his own props which included his map of South and North America, and a handmade Red Knot pointer puppet along with his 3-D diorama of horseshoe crabs. Daniel included meticulous details about the Red Knot migratory path and stopovers. He included information about its nest construction and feeding habits. Red Knots feed extensively on horseshoe crab eggs during its migration. It was clear that Daniel had learned a lot about the Red Knot and the horseshoe crab and feels passionate about protecting them for the future.

Next, Zachary Slansky, a first grade student from Mrs. Tomasino's class, presented his project comparing and contrasting many attributes of the Turkey Vulture with the Ferruginous Hawk. Zachary had prepared a large Venn diagram (consisting of 2 overlapping circles) that clearly outlined how the birds are similar and how they are different. He described information about their food preferences, where they live, and about their structure and habits. Zachary shared his hand made clay model of a Turkey Vulture and a craft he made from recycled materials depicting a Turkey Vulture tree hollow nest cavity. Zachary displayed a solid understanding of what he had learned and feels strongly that these birds should be protected and respected.

As a culmination of their bird presentations, Daniel and Zachary were given several birding gifts from the Board. Each boy received a pair of beginner's binoculars, a *Peterson Guide to Backyard Birds*, and a birding journal. The boys were eager to use their binoculars and to start their life list with identifying their own backyard birds.

The HAS Board of Directors was thanked for sponsoring the Oakwood Primary Center with Audubon Adventures classroom materials. The Board was truly impressed by the wealth of knowledge and maturity that these young students exhibited. Who knows, perhaps these boys will choose the field of ornithology when they grow up. We can only hope so!

*The mission of the Huntington Audubon Society is to increase community awareness about the environment and to encourage others to enjoy and protect birds and other wildlife in their natural habitats.*

**killdeer**

is the newsletter of the

**Huntington Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 735  
Huntington, NY 11743-0735**

a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is published five times a year.

**Officers**

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Rare Bird Alert	(212) 979-3070
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**For Distressed Wildlife Call**

Volunteers for Wildlife	(631) 423-0982
TR Sanctuary	(516) 922-3200

You can find us on the World Wide Web at  
**[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)**  
E-mail us at **[has@huntingtonaudubon.org](mailto:has@huntingtonaudubon.org)**.

## Garage Sale Success

The garage sale was held on a hot June Saturday in Cathy Fitts' yard producing a profit of almost \$1,000, our best total yet. We want to thank everyone who helped make it a success. Thank you to all who donated items giving us plenty of good, saleable items. Thank you to all who purchased items. You "lived recycling"; we hope you enjoy your purchases. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked on the sale. The saying is "many hands make light work" and we had many helpers including Blair Broughton, Simone DaRos, Alice Del Bosco, Cathy Fitts, Maria Kelly, Ginger Mahoney, Charlotte Miska, Vinnie Schiappa, and Petie Szabo. Your efforts truly support the environment.



## Up-Country by Bill McAneny



*This is the seventh in a series of articles describing the pleasures of life among the Finger Lakes. We live just north of the border between Seneca and Tompkins Counties. Shirley and I moved here from Huntington seven years ago.*

Hello, my friends. This month, my column is not about the up-country. It is about your country, Huntington, and how it came to be Audubon territory.

Almost 50 years ago, a small band of determined women decided that Huntington needed an organization to bring together those residents who were alarmed about the serious state of the environment. They decided to ally themselves with the National Audubon Society, whose purpose and reputation were closest to the concern they felt. The leader of the group was a positive-minded woman by the name of Janice Thiele.

Shirley and I recently received a note from a daughter of Janice, Susan Thiele Zabriskie, informing us of Janice's death on February 23, 2008. Susan had found our name among a bunch of recent *Killdeers*. It was interesting that Janice had kept her interest in HAS long after having moved away.

This could be a sad column but Janice would not have tolerated that. Janice was never defeated when it came to Audubon. After moving away, she founded at least two more chapters in her new home towns. Think of the vast numbers who have been introduced to the environment and have become protectors of wildlife due solely to the opportunities created by Janice Thiele. What a legacy! And how fortunate that she found encouragement and fertile ground here in Huntington. Every member of HAS, past and present, owes Janice a sincere thank you for showing us the way to environmental activism. It is hard

to believe how ignorant we were 50 years ago. There still is so much to do, but we should never forget how much has been done or how long it has taken.

When I responded to Susan's thoughtful note, I included a copy of a *Killdeer* article I had dug out of my archives. It was written by another founding member, Beth Wheeler. Beth subsequently moved to Washington state, but she too maintained her connection to HAS. I would encourage all of you who read this to do the same. Give it a chance and it could become a way of life. Janice Thiele would have loved that.

*Editor's Note: Bill McAneny was an active member of HAS for more than 35 years. During that time he served two terms as president, was editor of the Killdeer, coordinator of Armchair Activist from its inception, and HAS representative to numerous local, state, and national committees.*



Visit us on the web  
[www.huntingtonaudubon.org](http://www.huntingtonaudubon.org)

**October Program**  
**TUESDAY, October 7**  
**(Note change of usual meeting day.)**  
**Cold Spring Harbor Public Library**

7:00 PM Refreshments  
7:30 PM Speaker

### *Cats of Africa*

Luke Hunter is the Executive Director of Panthera, a New York based conservation charity he helped to create in 2006 which is dedicated to the range-wide conservation of the world's wild cat species. Prior to that, he headed the Great Cats Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society, and held positions in universities in Australia and South Africa. Hunter has worked on the ecology and conservation of carnivores in Africa since 1992. His doctorate and post-doctoral research developed methods to re-establish populations of cheetahs and lions in areas where they had been extirpated from Southern Africa. His current projects include assessing the effects of sport hunting and illegal persecution of leopards outside protected areas, developing a conservation strategy for lions across their African range, and the first intensive study of Persian leopards, striped hyenas, wolves, and the last surviving Asiatic cheetahs in Iran. Hunter has contributed to 80 scientific papers and popular articles, and has written five books. He is working on his sixth book, *A Field Guide to Carnivores of the World*.

*Schedule  
Change*



## Out on a Limb by Alex McKay

America is going green. You can hardly open a newspaper, magazine, or the Internet without encountering something else gone or going green. We have green power, green energy, green automobiles, green living, green portfolios, green partnerships, green schools, green experiences, green initiatives, and even green gadgets. The Nature Conservancy optimistically billed its spring gala at New York's Hearst Tower, a gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified green office building, "Greening the World." National Geographic has published a new *Green Guide - The Resource for Consuming Wisely* which covers topics from laundry detergents and organic cotton towels to living "Green on a Budget."

Locally, the draft updating of Huntington's Master Plan, "Horizons 2020", envisions a street tree and parking lot planting program for a "Green/Sustainable Huntington." The Town's "green infrastructure," its parks, open spaces and environmental resources, are among the prime values to be preserved in a "Green Huntington."

At the state level, Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has initiated a "Green Operations" program. He has launched a Green Strategic Investment Fund which will increase the State Retirement Fund's investment strategies in "clean tech" companies. He intends to make his headquarters in Albany an environmental showcase by seeking LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Beyond these green initiatives, DiNapoli will seek green audits in addition to fiscal audits to recommend green practices such as energy efficient light bulbs to cut costs and to protect health with green cleaning products in institutions and schools. That's a lot of green.

The New York State Legislature is also in a "greener state of mind," having recently passed legislation that would require all new construction and renovation projects to comply with green building principles using recyclable materials, renewable energy-efficient power generation systems, and efficient water resource usage among other requirements.

There is a new "Green Jobs for America" campaign which aims to rebuild America's manufacturing infrastructure and create a green economic renaissance. To promote this campaign an organization called the Blue Green Alliance sponsored a green jobs conference with 1,000 attendees.

The Environmental Defense Fund has announced a "a new chapter in the greening of corporate America" with its green partnerships program that will feature a Green Portfolio Project to measure how well companies harmonize their operations with the environment and help investor partner Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR) evaluate

and improve their environmental performance. *Fortune* magazine reported that "the green wave sweeping corporate America was bound to catch on with private equity firms."

From dollars to donuts. Up at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake New York, a "green team" meets regularly to look for new ways to save energy and spread the word. The cafeteria embraces "green principles" by using local food wherever possible. The New York DEC has initiated a green schools challenge to encourage schools to work toward responsible solid waste management. Even Congress has a new Green Schools Caucus to encourage schools to register for the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification program. (The Wild Center is a LEED silver award building.) A green residence hall at Hamilton College and a science hall at Saint Lawrence University are among many LEED certified buildings on college campuses with green dorms and showers.

A green experience reported in Nature Conservancy's spring magazine brings us to the heart of the matter, the source of all this greening, the threat and effect of global warming and climate change to the future of the planet. Conservancy's board vice-chair, Carol Dinkins reported visiting glaciers in Alaska and the Canadian Rockies. "The retreat of the glaciers was mind-boggling. Having read about it did not prepare me for what I saw."

When the glaciers start going green we need to be alarmed and attend to the size of our individual and collective carbon footprints and to preserving our green spaces. This new greening of America is something quite different from Charles A. Reich's vision in his 1970 classic *The Greening of America*, a bible of the environmental movement, which proclaimed a cultural and generational revolution that would transform American values and result in "a new relationship of man to himself, to other men, to society, to nature, and to the land," a vision that was never realized as the flower children and baby boomers of the 60's and 70's melted into mainstream America. But maybe, just maybe, this new greening of America will be a giant step (with a small footprint) in that direction.

## Go Take a Hike (For Your Health That Is!) by Stella Miller

We all know we should be exercising. We have all been told countless times that it is good for us to engage in a fitness routine; but perhaps the thought of running on a treadmill, like the proverbial hamster on a wheel, has all the appeal of watching paint dry. Or, maybe you feel you ARE that hamster on the wheel, morning after morning, watching the clock, waiting for your 30 minutes to finally be up so you can hop off and get on with your day. Well, allow me to inform you how you can not only



**Go Take a Hike (Continued)**

enhance your exercise regimen, but do it in a way that will stimulate your mind, strengthen your body, and nourish your soul. It is time to take working out to the great outdoors.

Let's talk about the benefits of exercise. You have been told it will help you burn calories and stay trim. This is true. I am sure that we have all seen the articles, headlines, and news shows about this. Daily physical activity not only will help you maintain an ideal weight, it is vital to your health. Working out will help fend off heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and slow the aging process. Weight bearing exercises, such as walking, have been proven to help prevent osteoporosis. Studies have shown that regular exercise can help alleviate mild depression as well as antidepressants do. Exercise literally can extend and perhaps even save your life.

Hiking is an ideal exercise. The reasons are simple. It is fun and it works. Based on research, a 150 pound person, walking at just 2 miles per hour, can burn 240 calories an hour. Add on a backpack and you are getting a terrific cardiovascular workout, while strengthening your muscles. These muscles are engaged much more than they would be while walking on a treadmill or street due to the uneven surface of trails. Add uphill climbs into the hike and you are really working those quads, glutes, and abs. Hiking uphill is an incredible calorie blaster!

In addition to the physical benefits, you can also help keep your mind sharp with the addition of an activity such as birding or identifying plants and wildflowers. Studies have shown that engaging in intellectually stimulating activities can keep your brain functioning at a much sharper level. Why not try to engage your brain while you are at it? There is also the added bonus of possible wildlife sightings, especially if you hike near dawn or dusk, which lends an air of excitement to your walk down the trail.

Another benefit of hiking is the sense of peace that nature brings. Connecting with the natural world is a way to retain your sanity, a way to forget, for a few hours, about the everyday stresses of life. Standing at the summit of a mountain, the edge of a wildflower filled meadow, or the shoreline of a shimmering lake can fill you with a sense of awe and accomplishment. Not something you typically feel as you hop off the treadmill I would bet!

It is simple to get started. As always, you should consult your physician before engaging in any new exercise program. Proper footwear and a backpack are essential, especially on longer or more rugged trails. Always have more water and food than you think you will need before you head out. Now, you just need to decide where to go.

The tri-state area is filled with state parks, preserves, and national wildlife refuges. The Catskill, Adirondack, and Shawangunk Mountains are all within a day's drive of Long Island. Hiking can be as easy as a simple ramble through a small preserve near your home, or as strenuous as climbing the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. There are trails to be found for every fitness level.

If you are apprehensive about venturing out on your own, there are plenty of ways to participate with like-minded people. Hiking clubs such as the Adirondack and Appalachian Mountain Clubs offer hikes for every fitness level. Environmental and conservation organizations, such as The National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and The Nature Conservancy offer group hikes, along with birding and botany walks. Check online and see what these clubs and organizations have to offer. Huntington Audubon offers a wide array of outdoor activities, ranging from bird walks to hikes to paddling trips. Many of you are probably not even aware of the abundance of resources and natural areas that are within a short driving distance, perhaps even in your own neighborhood.

The next time someone says to you, "Go take a hike!" take them up on it! It just might prolong and enhance your life.



**Membership Application**

Chapter No. RO2

Membership in National Audubon includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine and all the benefits of being a local chapter member. As a member of the Huntington Audubon Society, you will receive our newsletter and an open invitation to all our meetings, field trips, and events.

- New National Audubon Society member for \$20 (includes *Audubon* magazine)
- Huntington Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:  
Huntington Audubon Society**

**Send your check and application to:  
Huntington Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 735  
Huntington, NY 11743-073**



## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings and activities of the Huntington Audubon Society are free to members and nonmembers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the **Cold Spring Harbor Library** except for the months of July and August. Our refreshments will be set up and ready for you at 6:45 PM so that you will have ample time for socializing, meeting Board members, and perusing the printed materials available. We're doing this to be sure the program can start promptly at 7:30 and end early enough for us all to exit the building by its 9:00 PM closing hour. Our cooperation and compliance will allow the library staff to close the gate on schedule.

### August 2008

**Wednesday, August 20, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

### September 2008

**Wednesday, September 10, 7:00 PM** – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Birds of Central Park with Cal Vornberger.* New York's Central Park is a birding Mecca. In fact, it is considered one of the top birding spots in North America. Each spring and fall flocks of birders can be seen searching for songbirds that stop off in Central Park to refuel and recuperate during their journey to and from their breeding grounds in North America's northern forests. From the brightly-colored warblers to the ducks, owls, hawks and resident birds that breed in the park, there are over 200 species of birds in Central Park that one can hope to see. Cal Vornberger is a professional wildlife photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines, and newspapers around the world. He is the author of the award winning book, *The Birds of Central Park*.

**Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

**Tuesday, September 30** – Deadline for the November-December *Killdeer*.

### October 2008

**TUESDAY, October 7, 7:00 PM** – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** Join Dr. Luke Hunter tonight as he discusses the *Cats of Africa*. Luke Hunter is the Executive Director of

Panthera, a New York based conservation charity he helped to create in 2006 which is dedicated to the range-wide conservation of the world's wild cat species. Prior to that, he headed the Great Cats Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society, and held positions in universities in Australia and South Africa. Hunter has worked on the ecology and conservation of carnivores in Africa since 1992. His current projects include assessing the effects of sport hunting and illegal persecution of leopards outside protected areas, developing a conservation strategy for lions across their African range, and the first intensive study of Persian leopards, striped hyenas, wolves, and the last surviving Asiatic cheetahs in Iran. Hunter has

contributed to 80 scientific papers and popular articles, and has written five books. His next book is *A Field Guide to Carnivores of the World*.

**Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

### November 2008

**Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 PM** – **Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.** *Bird Species at Risk in New York State: What We Know about Them and What You Can Do to Help Them.* Conservation biologist Gregory S. Butcher, Ph.D., is Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society. He has served as editor of *Birder's World* magazine and is an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), past president of the Association of Field Ornithologists, and past chair of the nongovernmental organizations and monitoring committees of Partners in Flight.

**Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 PM** – Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

### Birders' Box

Spring migration was slow but productive totaling 169 birds seen on official HAS field trips by the end of the Birdathon. (Total number of birds seen on the Birdathon was 114 with 32 new birds added to the year's list.) Notable birds seen this spring include Green Heron, Wild Turkey, Ruddy Turnstone, Caspian Tern, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Wood, Hermit, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 5 types of Vireos, 16 warblers including Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Wilson's, and Canada, Northern and Orchard Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, White-crowned and Swamp Sparrows. The Bashakill trip added 5 species including Bald Eagle with nestlings. Upstate at the end of June, Ruffed Grouse seen drumming and a Pileated Woodpecker were added.

**Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 176.**

Schedule  
Change



## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Outdoor activities such as birding and hiking with a group is a wonderful way to share your interests with like-minded people to learn more about birds and nature, and to enjoy many preserves and natural areas. Newcomers are most welcome. Binoculars and field guides are strongly advised, but leaders usually have some field guides to share. Field trips begin between 8:00 and 9:00 AM at the site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. During spring migration, some field trips may begin earlier. That will be clear in the trip announcement. Directions to the site are published below and on our website. Carpooling is possible, gas and tolls are shared. Contact the trip leader for details. The trip leader is not responsible for arranging carpools, but will provide names of others who are interested in carpooling. Registration is necessary. Call the trip leader by 9:00 PM Thursday for a Saturday trip and by 9:00 PM Friday for a Sunday trip. Be sure to leave your phone number. You may participate if you didn't register, but we will not be able to notify you of any changes or cancellations without your phone number. Dress for the weather realizing you'll be outdoors for long periods of time. Bring water and if the trip is for a full day, bring a bag lunch. Rain or temperature below 20° F cancels. For the comfort and safety of all participants there is no smoking on field trips.

### September 2008

**Saturday, September 6, 9:00 AM – Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** This is a great birding spot in the fall for shorebirds, summer residents, and migrants.

**Directions:** Southern State Parkway to Belt Parkway to exit 17S, Cross Bay Boulevard, heading south. After crossing the bridge, look for parking lot entrance on the right side 1.25 miles from the bridge. Turn right at the traffic light and meet in the parking lot. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

**Sunday September 14, 9:00 AM – Hawk Watch Weekend Festival at Greenwich Audubon.** Greenwich Audubon's annual Hawk Watch Festival is a fun filled family themed day. Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch is located at the Nature Center and on this day, birds of prey are celebrated. There will be hikes, workshops, environmental exhibitors and activities all day. Live birds of prey will be featured. Food is available at the festival. The festival begins at 11:00 AM, but for those of you who are interested, we will be taking a hike around the property at 9:00 AM.

**Directions:** Hutchinson River Parkway North to I-684 North. Take Exit 2 toward Rt. 120/Westchester Airport. Turn right onto CR-135. Turn left onto NY-120 Purchase Street. Make a right onto NY 120A/Gateway Lane. Follow this road, crossing into CT. Make a left onto Locust Road. Slight left onto Bedford Road. Make a right onto John Street. You will soon see the sign for the Greenwich Audubon Center. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Sunday, September 21, 9:00 AM – Jones Beach West End.** Look for fall migrants.

**Directions:** Take either Meadowbrook Parkway or Wantagh Parkway to Ocean Parkway. Follow signs for the Coast Guard Station at the West End of Jones Beach. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

**Sunday, September 28, 10:30 AM – Canoe Trip in Constitution Marsh, Cold Spring, NY.** Constitution Marsh

Audubon Center and Sanctuary is a unique 270-acre tidal marsh that has been managed by the National Audubon Society since 1970. Eric Lind, a marsh naturalist, will lead participants through winding channels lined with cattails and other marsh plants, identifying any wildlife observed. There is a \$20 fee for this two-hour trip, \$15 for children 7-15. Contact Stella Miller to register by September 23 (516-695-0763). Group size limited to 15.

**Directions:** Throgs Neck or Whitestone Bridge to Hutchinson River Pkwy, to 287 West over Tappan Zee Bridge. Off at Exit 13 to Palisades Pkwy North to Bear Mt. Bridge. Cross the Bear Mt. Bridge, turn left onto Rt. 9D, go 8 miles north on 9D, through Garrison, take a left onto Indian Brook Road (dirt road at bottom of hill after going over steel bridge). Go ½ mile. Parking area is on right by their sign. Approximate travel time from Syosset is 1¾ hours. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

### October 2008

**Sunday, October 5, 8:00 AM – Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.** No, that is not a spelling error! Hook Mountain is in Nyack, right over the Tappan Zee Bridge. There is the possibility of seeing hawks at just about eye level. This hawk watch is located 730 feet above sea level, with beautiful views of the Hudson River. There is a short, but strenuous hike up the mountain to the watch. We will also go for a hike along the trails. Bring plenty of water and snacks.

**Directions:** From the New York State Thruway, take Exit 11 (Nyack). Proceed to Route 9W. Turn left onto 9W. Continue past the traffic light, past Christian Herald Road to the top of the hill. After about 1.8 miles, turn onto 9W. Look for the unpaved parking pull off on the right. (Limited parking, rough surface.) Walk north on east side of the road to triple yellow mark. Proceed up the yellow trail, Paddy's Path, to the top of the mountain, about ½ mile hike up with some steep sections. Approximate travel time from Syosset is 1 hour. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).



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P.O. Box 735  
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**August-September-October 2008**



Printed on recycled paper.

## *Field Trips (Continued)*

**Sunday, October 12, 9:00 AM – Great Kills Park and Oakwood Beach, Staten Island.** Staten Island is largely ignored by birders which is a mistake as there is a lot to see there. We will explore Great Kills Park and Oakwood Beach looking for fall migrants. Time permitting we may visit other areas like Wolfe Pond Park and Arbutus Lake.

**Directions:** Take Verazzano Narrows Bridge to I-278 west to the Hylan Blvd. exit south. Take Hylan Blvd. approximately 5 miles to entrance of Great Kills Park. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

### **November 2008**

**Sunday, November 2, 9:00 AM – Rockefeller State Park Preserve/Washington Irving's Sunnyside.** Today we will hike in the morning and visit historical Washington Irving's Sunnyside afterwards. Rockefeller State Park Preserve with 180 recorded species of birds and its IBA designation is a must visit area for birders. After our hike, we will travel to Washington Irving's Sunnyside for a house tour with costumed guides. Fee for Sunnyside: \$12 for guided tour, \$5 grounds only.

**Directions to Rockefeller State Park:** Taconic Parkway north to exit County Route 117 Pleasantville. At end of ramp, turn left. Proceed through 3 lights. Preserve entrance will be on the left. Approximate travel time from Syosset is 1 hour. Registration is a must. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).

**Sunday, November 23, 9:00 AM – Pelham Bay Park.** Look for owls, ducks, and permanent residents. In the past, Barn, Screech, Long-Eared, Saw-whet, and Great Horned Owls have been sighted here.

**Directions:** Take the Hutchinson River Parkway to the Pelham Bay Park/City Island/Orchard Beach exit. Continue east farther into the park past the traffic circle then veering left to the parking area on Hunters Island. Meet the group there. Leader: Blair Broughton (516-802-5356).

### **December 2008**

**Sunday, December 7, 9:30 AM – Field Trip for Families, Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge.** Morton NWR is famous for its tame Chickadees. We will provide birdseed. You are almost guaranteed to have Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and possibly White-breasted Nuthatches feeding from your hands while we explore the trails of this lovely refuge. Children will love this experience and so will adults.

**Directions:** Take Sunrise Hwy. (27) east past Shinnecock Canal. Look for North Sea and Noyack sign and bear left on CR52. Stay on CR52, then turn left at light onto CR38. After 1.4 miles on CR38, turn right onto Noyack Road. After 5 miles, turn left into refuge. Parking fee. Leader: Stella Miller (516-695-0763).