

The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

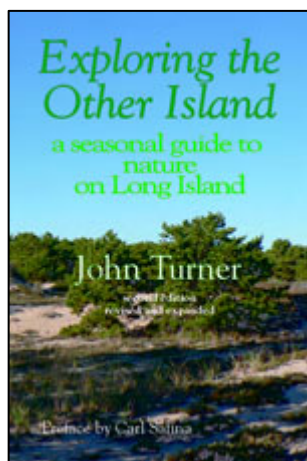


killdeer

March – April 2011

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Guide to Nature on Long Island



We are pleased to announce that our very own conservation committee co-chair and noted naturalist, John Turner, has published the second edition of his book, *Exploring the Other Island, a Seasonal Guide to Nature on Long Island*. This newly updated and expanded version of his original book is a wonderful guide to everything natural on Long Island and invaluable to the budding (or

experienced) naturalist. So many people think of Long Island as the Long Island Expressway, malls, built-up housing developments, and McMansions. They have no idea about the beauty that lies just beyond their sights. This book takes the reader on a seasonal tour of this natural Long Island, this beautiful island hiding within plain sight.

Join us on March 9th as we help John launch his new book with a special program and book signing. Be sure to buy a book as proceeds will be donated back to HOBAS. To celebrate John's book we will be serving a hero and other assorted goodies.

To get the latest news, schedule additions and changes, go to www.hobaudubon.org

and



Happy 50th Anniversary!

Huntington Audubon (renamed Huntington-Oyster Bay just last year), is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2011. We are having a dinner to celebrate this auspicious occasion and to provide an opportunity for old and new friends to reminisce and catch up on current activities.



The dinner will be held on **Wednesday, March 30, at 7:00 PM at the Harbor Mist restaurant in Cold Spring Harbor** (adjacent to the Cold Spring Harbor Library). The cost is \$40 per person and includes appetizers, dinner buffet, dessert, and coffee/tea. A cash bar will be available.

Send your check before March 15 along with the names of those attending, your phone number, and e-mail address. Please send it to:

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

Don't miss out. Send in your reservation today!

Bird's Eye Review with Stella Sapsuckers, Hops and Grubs

Sapsuckers Hops and Grubs is located in Huntington Village at 287 Main Street. While we don't normally publish restaurant reviews, how could I resist telling you about this fabulous little restaurant, named after the bird and decorated with Audubon prints? Some of the outstanding dishes include the beef brisket (if they have it on special, be sure to order!), pork shank, pirogues (almost as good as my mother used to make), mac and cheese, chicken pot pie, and barbecued spare ribs.

Head into Huntington village for dinner at Sapsuckers. You will be glad you did!

Membership Meetings

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

March 9, 2011:

Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Guide to Nature on Long Island - photo tour and book signing
with John Turner

April 13, 2011:

Mammals of Long Island
with Mike Bottini

See page 6 for details.

News from the President

Stella Miller



As I look out my window at yet another dumping of snow on the ground (I cannot believe I used to think that shoveling was “fun” and “good exercise”, now, as those first flakes fall, I just wonder if I have enough Advil and Ben-Gay in the medicine cabinet) my mind wanders to the spring time. In a few weeks we will

be treated to the first “konk-er-ees” of the Red-winged Blackbird, followed in March by the return of the Osprey to its nesting sites. Spring seems so far away, but I promise you, it will be here before we know it!

With that in mind, I want to remind you all that our Birdathon will again be taking place in May. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and is the equivalent of an annual appeal. Last year we raised over \$5,000 for our chapter. This money goes towards our public education programs as well as conservation efforts. Since last year’s Birdathon we have accomplished many wonderful things that we are so proud of. Some of our achievements include sending schoolchildren to nature camp, and taking on a leadership role in the efforts to preserve Plum Island from development. We are working with Assemblyman Englebright on legislation that would require all newly constructed buildings in New York State to be built with safeguards in place to reduce bird mortality, as well as encouraging him to renew efforts on two other bills he had sponsored: one protecting birds of prey at landfills, and the other one banning the commercial harvest of sea-horses. We are spearheading a *Keep Your Cats Indoors* awareness campaign (see article on page 3), with the American Bird Conservancy as a partner. We visit nursing homes, playing Bird Bingo with the residents, while teaching them about the natural world. We work with teenagers who are interested in conservation, fostering a sense of responsibility and mentoring these youths so that they will grow up to be future leaders in the conservation movement. We continue to sponsor monthly public education programs, lead regular field trips, and much, much more.

When I was first elected president of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, I set two major goals for myself and the chapter within that role. One was to increase our involvement in conservation issues and the other was to reach out to younger people and encourage them to care, become involved, and take action. I can proudly say that we have made great strides towards meeting these goals but of course, there is always so much more we can do!

With that in mind, I hope that you will be generous with your sponsorship this year. Please sponsor a Birdathon team member or consider joining a team and raising

The mission of the Huntington-Oyster Bay 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-Oyster Bay 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

President	Stella Miller	516-682-5977
Vice President	Blair Broughton	516-802-5356
Secretary	Ginger Mahoney	516-922-4599
Treasurer	Cathy Fitts	631-427-8623

Newsletter

Editor	Charlotte Miska	516-922-9710
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Important Telephone Numbers

Rare Bird Alert	212-979-3070
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For Distressed Wildlife Call

Volunteers for Wildlife	631-423-0982
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You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.hobaudubon.org.

E-mail us at **has@huntingtonaudubon.org.**

News from the President (Continued)

money yourself in May. By doing so, you will ensure that we can continue our efforts to protect wildlife and its habitat through education, conservation advocacy, and responsible recreation! Look for the annual appeal/sponsorship forms to arrive in the mail in late April.

In the meantime, despite the cold, wind, and snow, keep your ears tuned to the skies. In a few weeks, as promised, those first “konk-a-rees” will fill the air, and we can smile, knowing that spring is but a few short weeks away!

Why Cats Belong Indoors

Stella Miller

It's 10 AM. Do you know where Fluffy is? If you are like many people, and allow your cat to roam outdoors, there is a distinct possibility that at this moment, Fluffy is stalking an unaware bird, ready to pounce with deadly accuracy. “But wait, Fluffy is well fed”, you say. That doesn't matter. Cats do not always hunt because they are hungry. They hunt because of an innate instinct for hunting. They hunt because it is, dare I say it, fun. “Well, Fluffy wears a bell and that will serve as a warning”, you say. No again. A bell is useless. Wildlife does not recognize the sound of a bell as a danger signal and even if they did, most cats learn to stalk and seize their prey silently, despite the presence of a bell on their collar.

Cats as our Companions

Cats are companion animals, just as dogs are. They were domesticated thousands of years ago in Egypt and were brought to the United States a couple of hundred years ago. Cats evolved from wild species but are now considered their own separate species, *Felis catus*. Although they retain many of their wild characteristics such as appearance and the urge to hunt, they are now as domesticated as dogs are. Would you allow your dog to roam freely in the neighborhood?

Cats Impact on Birds and Other Wildlife

As an Audubon member, you have no doubt read about the decline of our native birds. Many bird populations are in a serious and steep decline due to three major causes: habitat destruction, window bird collisions (a topic we discussed in the last issue of the *Killdeer*) and cat predation. When you add up these losses, the math is chilling. Hundreds of millions of birds are killed by cats each year, and between 100 million and a billion die from window collisions. Factor in habitat loss and you are now looking at an unsustainable loss of these species.

Cats also kill prey animals such as mice, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, and other small mammals, competing with native species such as hawks, owls, foxes and other larger wild predators that depend on these animals for their survival. Statistics show that the combined numbers of

birds and small mammals killed each year by cats is close to one billion. Allowing a well fed house cat to compete for wild food sources places native predators at a disadvantage. Bottom line, cats are an invasive and alien species and do not belong in our ecosystem.

The Dangers Cats Themselves Face

You may be wondering if it is cruel to deprive your cat of an outdoor life. Absolutely not. Cats that are allowed outside are more likely to lead shorter lives. Exposure to transmittable and deadly diseases (such as rabies, feline leukemia, distemper, and FIV), the constant threat of being hit by a car, as well as being attacked by a dog or a larger predator such as a fox are very real and likely possibilities. In addition, there have been many publicized cases of cats found stabbed, burned, and shot by humans. Letting your cat outside can also be a risk for you: cats can contract diseases such as rabies and toxoplasmosis, both of which can be transmitted to humans. Furthermore, an outdoor cat may carry parasites, such as ticks, fleas, and worms into the home. Why expose your cat and yourself to these risks? Keep Fluffy inside and allow her to live a spoiled, pampered life!

What HOBAS is Doing to Help

Thanks to an Audubon collaborative grant, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon is spearheading a *Cats Belong Indoors* educational campaign to spread awareness about this issue. HOBAS is coordinating a council of other like-minded organizations, including the American Bird Conservancy, in order to bring this message to the public. We plan to distribute brochures to veterinarians, cat rescue groups, shelters, and pet stores to help spread the message that allowing your cat outside is deadly to birds, other wildlife, and to be frank, your cat.

When you really think about it, the greatest gift you can give your cat is to allow it to live a pampered, spoiled life inside your home. For more information on how to keep your kitty a happy indoor kitty, please visit the following website: <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials/outin.pdf>. Keep an eye out for a *Cats Belong Indoors* section on our website in the future.

One Final Note: If you are no longer able to care for your cat for any reason, we ask that you not release it outdoors, thinking it will fend for itself, or that someone will find it and take care of it. Chances are your cat will end up dead. Please take your unwanted cat to a local shelter or rescue organization. Think of your cat's quality of life as well as the lives of our native species. Birds and other wildlife are already struggling to survive in a world filled with human caused obstacles. As caretakers of our natural world, why make it more difficult for them by allowing your cat to roam outside? For the health and happiness of your cat, for the benefit of wild animals, and for your peace of mind, please, keep your cat indoors.

Reflections on a Vagrant: Connecticut's Fork-tailed Flycatcher

John L. Turner



photo by Corey Finger, *10,000 Birds*

Looking at the results from a November 15, birding list-serve, I immediately focused on the news that a vagrant Fork-tailed Flycatcher, a bird native primarily to South America, was making an appearance at Cove Island Park, in Stamford, CT. That's right, not southern North America or Central America but the America in the southern hemisphere, the America with the wonderfully birdy countries of Brazil, Peru, and Columbia. This news would have been incredulous were it not for the fact the species is occasionally known for embarking on these long distance peregrinations to places far outside its expected range.

Due to work commitments I couldn't take off the next day, but two days later I played hooky and went to see it. Two hours later, there in all of its improbable glory, perching on a bare branch of winter in the center of my scope, was a bird some 5,000 miles from home. I knew the when, what, and where of this vagrant's appearance so on my ride home on the Connecticut Turnpike I mused on the more interesting questions of why and how.

The Fork-tailed Flycatcher, which looks similar to our own Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in shape and outline if not so in coloration, occurs from central Mexico to central Argentina. It breeds throughout much of this range. So how do we explain the sudden appearance in southern New England of a vagrant bird species with this geographic distribution? To explain the "why" of bird vagrancy most papers and research cite "seasonal overshoots" of immature birds, most often males, as they move during the migration season. Say what? An overshoot? That's putting it mildly. It would be as if, after deciding I want some crumb buns, instead of driving to the local bakery a quarter mile west of my house I overshoot that one and wind up at the bakery in Palo Alto, California! Still, the theory seems to fit the Connecticut bird since it was an immature male as evidenced by the shorter tail, and November in the southern hemisphere is equivalent to May (our migration month) in our hemisphere. Vagrancy is more common in immature birds than adults probably because relatively few vagrant birds survive to make it to adults. While the reasons for why vagrant birds do what they do is unclear, the "overshooting" phenomenon may be

due to a genetic defect in the bird's navigational toolbox.

Vagrancy has been reported in dozens of bird species and some species are more regular vagrants than others, although few are as spectacular in their "vagrancy" as our flycatcher friend. A sampling of species in which vagrant individuals regularly show up on Long Island include: Lark Sparrow, Western Kingbird, Western Tanager, Dickcissel, Townsend's Solitaire, and Lark Bunting. An especially notable recent vagrant was the Hermit Warbler, a west coast songbird, which showed up at Sunken Meadow State Park for several days last winter.

The flycatcher's appearance while unusual and uncommon is not unprecedented. The species has "overshot" its South American range at least 40 times in the past with reported occurrences involving both adult and immature birds. It has been found as far north as southeastern Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland.

Not all vagrancy is due to genetic defects. For example, specific weather systems or events sometimes explain vagrancy. As many birders know hurricanes often will entrain large numbers of birds, carrying them for hundreds or sometimes a thousand or so miles before weakening to the point the birds are no longer "captured" within them. Seabirds, albatrosses, and the like are particularly known for being swept up in hurricanes and transported to places far outside of the species' typical ranges.

It's thought that most vagrant birds perish. Not being in accustomed habitat, confronting unfamiliar predators, and a climate to which it isn't adapted, the odds are stacked against the bird. But some do survive and find the heretofore unused habitat to their liking, and are able to establish an expansion in the range of the species, sometimes considerably so. The overwinter of rufous hummingbirds in the southeastern US is a perfect example.

I closely watched the flycatcher for nearly two hours. During this time he seemed physically fit, mentally alert, entirely "normal", with plumage that was neat and clean. Hunting in typical flycatcher fashion, he regularly sallied out from half a dozen favored perches once it eyed aerial prey, towards which it adeptly and successfully gave pursuit. It was quite apparent its sensory apparatus was fully intact. No evidence of a fatally defective genetic flaw in this long-tailed fellow!

The flycatcher was last reported about 2 weeks after it was first discovered. The weather grew colder with the onset of winter and the insect prey the flycatcher depended on for sustenance disappeared. I hoped that the bird was able to either leave the colder climes to which it was unsuited or convert to eating fruit which Fork-tailed Flycatchers are known to do. I mostly hoped it didn't pay the ultimate price for its apparent genetic defect by succumbing to the elements 5,000 miles from home, but rather successfully negotiated its way to the other side of the equator.

Christmas Bird Count

Pat Atiken



In the couple of weeks before Christmas and after New Years, teams of birders all over the country were out in the field, participating in the longest running wildlife census in the world. These citizen scientists were participating in the annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. “At more than 100 years running, the annual Christmas Bird Count provides an unparalleled long-term record

of early winter bird distributions and abundances and a basis for analysis of range changes across the continent,” said Albert E. Caccese, Executive Director of Audubon New York.

The Christmas Bird Count was started in 1900 by Frank Chapman as an alternative to a holiday tradition known as the Side Hunt, in which whoever shot the most birds or animals won. 27 Christmas Bird Counters counted 90 species in 25 locations, ranging from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California. In the surveys conducted in late 2009 to early 2010, 60,753 individuals participated in over 2160 different teams. The CBC is conducted from the high arctic of Canada, throughout North America and Hawaii, the Caribbean, and South America.

For many birders and their families, the Count has become a tradition. The Counts are held regardless of wind or rain, although the blizzard this year did force a few counts to be rescheduled. I participated in two counts, one on December 18 to survey the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor area. Blair Broughton, Dan Mahoney, and Jason Pietrzak were the other team members. We set off early to survey local ponds and the waterfront for ducks. The other count I participated in was to survey the Jones Beach area with Bill Reeves, and Sharon and Marc Brody. The counts were lower, probably due to less than optimal weather conditions, and the presence of duck hunters on the South Shore. All the experienced counters had stories about being out in blustery wind, rain and snowstorms on previous bird counts.

At the end of the day, team members gather at a compilation dinner, which was hosted at Muttontown Preserve. The lists of birds seen during the day are all compiled, and the data is sent to National Audubon, which will then publish a report on the data collected during the counts nationwide. It will be available on the Audubon Society website. Participating in the CBC was a very satisfying way to spend a day. The data collected will be

invaluable to scientists and will help to direct efforts to protect habitat for birds and other animals.

Did You Know?



In the spring of 1980, HAS members began observations that contributed to the first Atlas of Breeding Birds in NY State, published in 1986.

By the beginning of 1981, when Alice DelBosco was President, HAS membership had grown to over 1,000.

Protecting and monitoring the tern colony at Sand City on Eatons Neck continued as a major activity of HAS volunteers under Tom Caggiano’s direction. HAS volunteers conducted regular cleanups and trail maintenance as part of the chapter’s stewardship of the Betty Allen Twin Ponds Preserve in Centerport.

Birdathons, annual one-day fundraising field trips by HAS birders who are sponsored by chapter members and others, began in the 1980s.

HAS was actively involved in the establishment of the Town of Huntington’s Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (STOP) program. Under Bill McAneny’s leadership, 50 members participated in the Armchair Activist Program of National Audubon Society. Information was provided for activists to use in writing letters and telephoning government officials about conservation issues and bills.



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-Oyster Bay 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) **Make check payable to National Audubon**
- Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society member for \$20 (does NOT include *Audubon* magazine) **Make check payable to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

e-Mail _____

**Send your check and application to:
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735**



MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Membership meetings and most activities of the Huntington-Oyster Bay 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.

March 2011

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Join us tonight as we enjoy a photo tour of John Turner's newly revised book *Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Guide to Nature on Long Island*. The program will take you through the four seasons on a tour of all things that are natural on Long Island. A book signing will follow, with proceeds being donated to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon.

Wednesday, March 16, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Saturday, March 26, 1:00 PM – *Birds of Long Island in Their Habitats* at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. A photographic presentation of the birds that frequent LI and their habitats with Luke Ormand. From endangered grasslands to the expansive Pine Barrens, Long Island is a surprisingly diverse geographic location that a wide variety of birds call home. Join us this afternoon as we explore the homes and habitats of Long Island birds. Luke Ormand is an amateur wildlife photographer based on the East End of Long Island. When not in the field, he works as an Environmental Analyst for the Town of Brookhaven.

April 2011

Monday, April 4 – Deadline for May-June-July *Killdeer*.

Saturday, April 9, 12:00-2:00 PM – Owl Discovery Program for Kids. Have you ever wondered what an owl eats for dinner or why they are such excellent hunters? We will explore the contents of owl pellets, while discussing the interesting behavior and life-cycle of the several species of owl which frequent our area. Each participant will be provided with a pellet of their own, which they will be able to dissect and examine. Group size limited to 25. Call Stella Miller 516-695-0763 to register.

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 PM – Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. Grey foxes? Skunks? River Otters? Weasels? Flying Squirrels? Tonight we will discuss the wild mammals currently found on Long Island, including interesting facts about their life histories, as well as those species that have been extirpated from Long Island but are found elsewhere in New York and nearby states. Mike Bottini is a veteran naturalist, outdoor educator, and environmental consultant. Mike will be bringing several of his books to sell, including *The Walking Dunes, East Hampton's Hidden Treasure*.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM – Garlic Mustard Pull at St. John's Preserve. We will partner with The Nature Conservancy for this pull. Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that has been known to threaten many native wildflowers which occur in the same habitat. St. John's Pond Preserve supports diverse wildflower species such as trilliums, orchids and jack-in-the-pulpits.

What to Bring: Gloves, long pants, long sleeves, water, lunch and **your binoculars**. Following the pull there will be a bird walk lead by Derek Rogers of TNC and Stella Miller of HOBAS. To register call 516-695-0763. Due to sensitive habitat, group size is limited to 15 participants.

Directions: Route 25A east or west to the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery. Pull into the back parking lot, by the stairs, to meet.

Wednesday, April 20, 7:15 PM – Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Birders' Box

Saturday, January 8. Brendan Fogerty, and Stella Miller lead off 2011 spotting 35 species at Pelham Bay Park. The only owl was the Great Horned. Waterfowl included Brandt, Canada Geese, American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, Mallard and Bufflehead. Some other notable species sighted were Fox Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Killdeer, Brown headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Red-tailed Hawk, Herring Gull, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Sunday, January 9. Blair Broughton led a trip to various ponds and bays on the North Shore area in Huntington. Spotted were Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Long-tailed Duck, Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed and Greater Black-backed Gull, and American Crow.

Sunday, February 13. Blair Broughton led a trip to Pt. Lookout and Jones Beach. Fourteen hardy souls ventured out on a pleasant but windy winter day. They were rewarded with great sightings of Harlequin Ducks, a raft of Common Eiders, and close to 1,000 Brandt. Also seen were Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons, Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant, Northern Harrier, and a flock of Snow Buntings.

Number of species seen in 2011 on HOBAS trips is 52.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon are free, unless otherwise specified, and open to the public. Outdoor activities, such as birding and hiking with a group, are 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.

March 2011

Sunday, March 6, 9:00 AM – Massapequa Preserve and Twin Lakes at Wantagh. Many ducks up close. Green-winged teals, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, and Snipe are often seen, land birds as well. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: Southern State Pkwy to Exit 30S, Broadway Ave, Massapequa. Go south on Broadway to Euclid Ave. Turn left on Euclid, go two blocks to the T intersection, Parkside Blvd. Turn left onto Parkside. Park along the road adjacent to the Park. Meet at the opening for the entrance to the park.

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 AM – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Internationally known as a premier birding spot in the United States. **Leader:** Sharon Brody. Call 516 433-5590 to register.

Directions: Southern State Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd south, exit 17S. 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, meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, March 27, 9:00 AM – Shu Swamp/Sagamore Hill Beach. An early spring walk in small, but different habitats in close proximity to Northern Oyster Bay. Starting at Shu Swamp we will search for Wood Ducks and Rusty Blackbirds while observing skunk cabbage and any spring ephemerals that may be blooming. At Sagamore Hill, we'll walk the trail from the Old Orchard Museum to the beach on Cold Spring Harbor. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: From 25A take 106 north to Oyster Bay. Make left onto Lexington Ave, then another left onto West Shore Road. Directly after Mill Pond (on the left) make a left, go up the hill on Mill Hill Road. Make a right on Beaver Brook Road, which will become Frost Mill Road. Shu Swamp is on the left, just before a railroad trestle.

April 2011

Sunday, April 10, 9:00 AM – Jones Beach, West End 2. Look for early migrants including Oystercatcher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Piping Plover, Egrets, Kinglets,

warblers, and sparrows. **Leader:** Sharon Brody. Call 516 433-5590 to register.

Directions: Take either Meadowbrook Pkwy or Wantagh Pkwy to Ocean Pkwy. Follow signs for the Coast Guard Station at the West End of Jones Beach. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms.

Sunday, April 17, 9:00 AM – Historic Greenwood Cemetery. A wonderful place that combines beautiful scenery, famous monuments, and some of the best bird-watching in the city. The must-see birds are the Monk Parakeets, a naturalized escapee, at the gatehouse. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: LIE westbound to 48th St exit to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway south to the Hamilton Ave exit. Continue on Hamilton Ave until it becomes Third Ave. Continue about 8 blocks to 25th St. Turn left at 25th St. and go to two blocks. Cemetery entrance is straight ahead at Fifth Ave and 25th St.

Sunday, April 24, 9:00 AM – Great Swamp NWR/ Raptor Trust Center, Basking Ridge, NJ. The Great Swamp NWR consists of swamp woodlands, hardwood ridges, cattail marshes, grasslands, ponds, and meandering streams administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: From the George Washington Bridge, take I-80 West to I-287 South. Take exit 30A (Basking Ridge/North Maple Ave) and bear right onto North Maple Ave. Go through traffic light at Madisonville Road (ignore the refuge directional sign pointing left at Madisonville Road) and continue on North Maple Ave. After one mile North Maple will bear left and become South Maple Ave. Continue on South Maple Ave for one mile and turn left on Lord Stirling Road. After 1.3 miles (last part is a dirt road) and pass over a bridge on the Passaic River (the road name changes to White Bridge Road). From the bridge on White Bridge Road, stay on White Bridge Road for 2 miles, make left onto New Vernon. Continue .9 miles and wildlife observation center will be on left. Approximate travel time is 2 hours.

(Continued on page 8.)



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

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March – April 2011

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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Field Trips (Continued from page 7.)

Saturday, April 30, 9:00 AM – Walking Dunes. Located on the western edge of Hither Hills State Park, Montauk, the Walking Dunes are three parabolic dune systems containing a beautiful mosaic of diverse plant communities: dune-heath, cranberry bog, pitch pine forest, hardwood forest, and red maple-tupelo swamp. (Mike will have copies of his book *The Walking Dunes, East Hampton's Treasure*, for sale.) **Leader:** Mike Bottini. Call Stella Miller 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Meet at the end of Napeague Harbor Road (a dead end road). Traveling east on Montauk Highway, continue past Amagansett Village, the restaurant LUNCH, cross the flat Napeague stretch, and look for the sign "Sea Crest Condominiums." Napeague Harbor Road is a left turn directly across from the Sea Crest. After making the left turn, cross over the railway and drive to the end of Napeague Harbor Road. Park on the side of the road.

May 2011

Sunday, May 1, 7:30 AM – Central Park Warbler Madness. Central Park is one of the finest spots for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Join us today as we search for early migrants throughout the park's hotspots. **Leaders:** Jacob Drucker and Stella Miller. Call Stella Miller 516-695-0763 to register.

Directions: Meet at the Boathouse in Central Park., easily

accessed from the pedestrian entrance on 5th Ave near 76th St. Walk downhill veering left past the Alice in Wonderland statues, by the right side of the sailboat pond then toward the right, up the hill, cross the roadway and to the Boathouse.

Sunday, May 8, 9:00 AM – Jamaica Bay. – Once again we will be heading to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, but this time at the height of spring migration. If the conditions are right, the gardens at should be filled with migrant warblers and other assorted songbirds. **Leader:** Blair Broughton. Call 516-802-5356 to register.

Directions: Southern State Pkwy to Cross Bay Blvd south, exit 17S. 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, meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, May 22, 6:45 AM – Birdathon! Special Fundraiser All Day Event! You are welcome to participate for all or part of the day and to leave at any time. Begin at the parking lot on 76th Ave of Alley Pond Park, then Forest Park, then Jamaica Bay. Expect to see at least 100 species of birds. This is a major fundraiser and lots of fun. Join us or sponsor a participant! For Information, call Bob May 631-744-3898.

Directions: Northern State Pkwy to exit 23. Go past the Cross Island Pkwy exits to Union Trnkp. Turn right (west) onto Union Turnpike to Springfield Blvd. Go right on Springfield Blvd to 76th Ave. Turn right. The entrance to the parking lot is immediately on your left. Meet at the lot.