

The Huntington Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society



killdeer

May - June - July 2007

Serving Huntington Township and the Neighboring Oyster Bay and Jericho Areas

Birdathon 2007 Help Us Meet Our Goal of \$5,000! by Stella Miller



It is that time of year and once again Huntington Audubon will be holding its annual Birdathon at Alley Pond Park, Forest Park, and Jamaica Bay National Refuge.

The event runs from 6:45 AM until 6 PM on Sunday, May 20th. This event is one of our biggest fundraisers, in fact, last year's nationwide Birdathon helped raise over **\$1 million dollars** in support of Audubon's mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and habitat for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Participants seek pledges - either a flat donation or a set amount per species of bird identified. (We usually see 100+.) On the Big Day we diligently search for as many species as possible and record all we see. **Imagine how successful Birdathon 2007 could be if each member donated a minimum of just \$5.00!** This support is crucial to our chapter.

Birdathon is a fast paced, wonderful experience and a great way to meet other enthusiastic birders, make new friends, and participate in one of Audubon's largest annual fundraising events and the world's biggest bird watching competition. Consider joining the HAS team on **May 20th**. Join us for all or part of the day. Bring a friend or family member. If you cannot participate, please send a donation in support of Birdathon to **Huntington Audubon, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743**, or donate at our May monthly meeting. **Help raise donations to support the efforts of your local Audubon chapter and assist in sustaining the important work of environmental education and stewardship.** For more information, see our Field Trips page.

Hog Island by Ginger Mahoney

Seth Benz, director of Hog Island Audubon Center in Maine, invited chapters to join in celebrating Hog Island's 70th birthday. We said yes! Huntington Audubon's Board of Directors has chosen Stella Miller and Simone DaRos to send to Hog Island's Audubon Leadership Week in August. If you read this issue's Featured Volunteer (Simone) and the Jan - Feb Featured Volunteer (Stella) articles we are sure you will agree that these two newcomers to HAS figure strongly in its future. Stella and Simone will have the opportunity to meet with Audubon colleagues from across the country and with leaders from National Audubon to share strategies to help our chapter. Hog Island is a beautiful, one-of-a-kind island with a 70-year tradition of commitment to conservation and love of the natural world. We are pleased to support them in their mission and eager to hear how our "campers" grow from their experience. Congratulations, Stella and Simone!

HAS Garage Sale

Here is your opportunity to clean out the closets and organize the basement while supporting Huntington Audubon. On **Saturday, June 2nd we will hold our second annual garage sale** at 202 Southdown Road, Huntington as a fundraiser for our chapter and the many programs we provide for our community. We will be accepting donations of small appliances, books, dishware, small furniture, sports equipment, clothing in good condition, or anything you think can be used by someone else. **We will accept donations from Friday May 25th through Wednesday May 30th.** Please call Louise Hublitz at 631-271-4386 for drop-off times and directions. Remember, your trash is some else's treasure! (Rain date is June 3rd.)



May Program

Wednesday, May 9
Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments
7:30 PM Speaker

Leader of the Pack, African Wild Dogs

Scientists estimate that there are only 3,000 to 6,000 wild dogs left throughout Africa. Dr. Pat Thomas, Curator of Mammals at the Bronx Zoo will tell us about the conservation work the Wildlife Conservation Society has undertaken in Botswana, Kenya, and Tanzania to save this endangered species, and give us a glimpse into the lives of the new pack of dogs at the zoo. Learn all about these beautiful, often misunderstood canines. *A field trip to see the dogs at the zoo will follow on May 19th.*

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

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TR Sanctuary	(516) 922-3200

You can find us on the World Wide Web at
www.huntingtonaudubon.org.
E-mail us at has@huntingtonaudubon.org.

Featured Volunteer - Simone DaRos

You may think Martha Stewart is a member of Huntington Audubon when you first attend an HAS membership meeting. The smell of freshly brewed coffee (shade grown, of course) greets you and the spread of baked goods and fruit is both tempting and pleasing to the eye. Our "Martha" is Simone DaRos and no, she is not a professional caterer, but a dedicated primary grades teacher. While Hospitality is perhaps the most conspicuous role that Simone plays in our chapter, it is far from the only one.

Fundraising is an important aspect of our organization and one in which Simone shines. Most recently she arranged for Whole Foods in Jericho to donate platters of fruit, vegetables, and cookies for the incredible March program, "In Search of the Jaguar", given by Dr. Alan Rabinowitz. She is responsible for the sale of shade grown coffee served and sold at meetings, Bird Seed Sale, and special events. Birdathon and the HAS garage sale are other fundraising endeavors that Simone gives her time and expertise to.

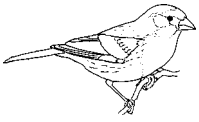
Simone's outgoing personality and passion for wildlife and the environment make her perfect for representing HAS at festivals and fairs. She set-up and worked last year's Oyster Festival in October and will do the same for this year's Wildlife Festival at Sweetbriar Nature Center in June. Fairs such as these bring our message of conservation and environmental advocacy to the public and new members to our chapter.

Without a doubt, Simone's most important role is that of educator. Year after year young children are privileged to call Ms DaRos their teacher. She is a daily role model of concern for the environment and all living things. She has embraced the Audubon Adventures program in her classroom and encouraged several colleagues to do the same.

Simone is an HAS board member and recently the TR Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay invited Simone to join their board as one of three HAS representatives on that board. She will undoubtedly be a supportive voice for the Sanctuary's animals and educational programs and an asset to their education committee.

This year HAS is sending two participants to Audubon Leadership Camp on Hog Island in Maine. We know that Simone DaRos is an excellent choice for one of those positions. She has shown true commitment since becoming an HAS member and will surely be a positive force for growth and change for many years to come. Thank you, Simone!

How it Began by Janice Thiele



Note from HAS President Ginger Mahoney: Several months ago I received a call from a lovely person concerned that her Killdeer issues find her while National Audubon caught up to her change of address. Her name- Janice Thiele - did not ring a bell for me, though for some of our readers it certainly will. Janice Thiele was the founder of Huntington Audubon in 1961! She shared some HAS history with me that day and I needed more. I asked Janice if she would write an article about those "first days". She graciously agreed. What follows are Janice's reflections on the early years of Huntington Audubon - who we were and what we were about. I think you'll love it. Thank you, Janice - both for these reflections and for all you did to get us started.

Keeping my eye on the bird feeder out my window as I write this, I see a male and female House Finch. Most appropriate sighting as their ancestors were responsible for the birth of Huntington Audubon Society.

Those wild birds were being sold on the south shore of Long Island until the authorities stopped it and they survived and arrived at our feeders on the north shore. Friends and neighbors could not identify them, nor schools, museums, or the library. I thought I would call the local Audubon Society but there wasn't one. Mr. Callison at National gave me permission to start one by putting together nearby zip codes to include in our jurisdiction and when he approved my choice we were off.

I made arrangements with the Huntington Library for a meeting room and put the information in the newspaper. I scurried around notifying any and all who ever looked at a bird, fished a pond, hunted any animals, Ducks Unlimited, decoy carvers, teachers, hikers, professionals, and lovers of the outdoors, etc. I was going to be certain to have someone at my meeting. That evening at the time of the meeting, I was in an ambulance taking my husband to the hospital. (I had mixed feelings on that occasion.) He survived the Flu. We were married 60 years until he died in 2004. He was fortunate to survive those early Audubon days. I received a lot of phone calls from people thinking I knew more than I knew and while I was on the phone he would be in the background somewhere whistling little bird sounds. He was living dangerously!

At the second meeting we had a battle on our hands as they had thought at the first meeting that it should just be a bird watching club. I must have had some good help as it was turned around and became a branch of National Audubon. I remember arguing that we needed NAS for support to slow "progress" in our area. Also, I think at that time we had had planes flying low and spraying DDT. Wasn't it to control the gypsy moth? What a mistake they made. Land was

being rapidly purchased and wetlands were disappearing. We didn't win all the battles for green space etc, but we slowed it down and sometimes cut it down.

I believe Betty Allen started right away as secretary. I remember Sally Rupert, the McAnenys, Harvey Weber of *Newsday*, and so many who helped in so many ways. We had no money for a bulletin and decided to sell ads in our *Killdeer*. That made it possible to print it and get the paper to print it on. That worked until we really became an active chapter and received our share of the membership monies. It was great fun and a learning experience for our families as well. I am so proud of HAS because they have followed what Audubon stands for and have educated so many of the lawmakers along strong environmental and ecological directions. I found it always wise to have experts from all sides of an issue have time to explain their positions.

You asked how it started and that is how. When my family and I moved to Indiana, I was written up in an Audubon publication from New York because my new Indiana address was on Audubon Road. I moved back for a brief period and I started the Jersey Shore Audubon. That was brought on by the filling in of wetlands, over fishing by the Russian trawlers, and the proposed huge oil tankers with possible spillage. This time, National had help for me. An entire program had been set up for starting chapters.

One more short paragraph. I went from New Jersey to New York City and I worked for National on 57th Street. Nothing spectacular, just for the magazine adjusting addresses and assigning chapters. I loved being with all those great people. People even brought injured birds, mostly pigeons and sometimes we would take those recovered over to Central Park and release them. Can you believe that some people would call inquiring about the bird they had brought to us?

Editor's Note: Does anyone else have recollections of HAS's early days? Send them to Huntington Audubon Society, P.O. Box 735, Huntington, NY 11743-0735.

June Program

Wednesday, June 13

Cold Spring Harbor Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Speaker

Audubon Sanctuaries of the Upper Hudson River

Join us for a slide show on the *Flora and Fauna of Three Upper Hudson Valley Estuary Audubon Sanctuaries* - photos of plants and critters taken in the course of daily activities by Assistant Warden/Educator Larry Federman. *See Field Trips for a trip to visit these sanctuaries.*

Up-Country by Bill McAneny



This is the first in what I hope will be 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. Our street is the county line. We moved here from Huntington seven years ago.

It is snowing in the up-country in early March as I write. I sincerely hope that is not true as you read this. It is what the locals call "lake effect" snow. Cold air passing over the Great Lakes picks up moisture and drops it over land. The lake effect dropped over 10 feet of snow in the upper up-country east of Oswego in January. We don't get anything close to that. There often is snow in the air here but little accumulates. Makes it nice to sit by the window and watch the flakes fly without dread of being snowed in.

Aside from the lake effect, we do get some real storms. The storm in February left us deep snow that is still on the ground. We have put out more seed and suet for the wildlife. Just today, a red fox cruised across our field, looking and listening for little critters under the surface. At one point, he arched into the air and came down nose first into the crust. Ooh, that must have hurt! It was worth one fat meadow vole, though, which he ate on the spot.

Often Red-tailed Hawks fly over the field to find some careless mouse, and they sometimes land on one of the perches I erected in the field expressly for that purpose. Once in a while, a Northern Harrier will make a pass but they have not been observed to be successful. More successful have been the Sharp-shinned Hawks, and even a Northern Shrike. Cooper's Hawks are plentiful but their success is limited. There are abundant Crows in winter, and for a treat, one or two Ravens.

Almost daily throughout the winter, Canada Geese fly over on their way to a meal at the cornfields. There are lots of cornfields in the up-country, enough to get entrepreneurs thinking about building an ethanol plant in Seneca County, perhaps 20 miles from us. Among the Canadas, I have spotted a Cackling Goose, and more have been seen on Cayuga Lake. Snow Geese fly over to feed occasionally and they also migrate through this region. Their little yelping cries never fail to get my attention.

Perhaps it is no surprise that our winter birds are much the same species that you see on Long Island. Some exceptions may be the little flocks of Tree Sparrows that are at the feeders every day, and a few Eastern Bluebirds that come by to see if I have reached the point of putting out mealworms for them. (I have not.) So, they content themselves with gleaning the remainder of the holly berries and checking out the best of the dozen bird houses

we have planted in our field. Cedar Waxwings come by once in a while to harvest any fruit left on the ornamental apple trees. We check carefully for Bohemian Waxwings but, while rare, they are seen more often on the other side of the lake. A special treat, winter or summer, is the arrival of one or two Pileated Woodpeckers. They are likely to make fewer stops here since their favorite trees, the sugar maples, are now fewer in number since we took down three of the oldest, most decayed members.

Two Red Bellied Woodpeckers are playing tag above the feeders in the shade garden. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers was doing the same a few days ago. This morning, a White-crowned Sparrow showed up at the feeders, just a couple of days after the first Fox Sparrow. People are reporting hundreds of Song Sparrows at their feeders and along roadsides. The last warm front seemed to carry a huge surge of these birds, and the snowstorms caught up with them before they could move further north and out of the storm area.

This has not been an irruption year, but last year was, with lots of Evening Grosbeaks, various Crossbills, Siskins, Snowy Owls, and Red Breasted Nuthatches. This year, on the other hand, has provided a number of Rough-legged Hawks to keep company with the dozens of Red-tailed Hawks. Short-eared Owls have been seen frequently if you go to the right location.

Winter brings out the worst in the dozens of deer in our neighborhood. This may be a good point to halt until the next time. Good birding.

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. We welcome him back to the Killdeer.

Thank You Whole Foods Market by Simone DaRos



Our March Members' Meeting was graced with the generous food donations contributed by Whole Foods Market in Jericho. Our refreshments that evening included two large fresh fruit and vegetable platters along with yummy bakery cookie platters. Everything looked beautiful and tasted fresh. Our members and guests truly enjoyed the refreshments that Whole Foods Market provided.

On behalf of the Huntington Audubon Society, we gratefully acknowledge and humbly thank Whole Foods Market in Jericho, Chris Ivers, and staff for making such a generous food donation to our very special March Members' Meeting. **Thank you Whole Foods Market!**

Out on a Limb by Alex McKay

There was good news for the environment and parks as New York's new governor and legislative leaders agreed on a budget for the coming year. The Environmental Protection Fund was expanded by \$25 million to a total of \$250 million which will include \$22 million for State Land Stewardship, \$55 million for Open Space Acquisition, and \$21 million for local parks grants.

Perhaps more significant is provision for 175 new staff positions to build up agencies that had been badly neglected by the past Administration. The DEC will gain over 100 positions, with 52 at State Parks, and 5 for the Adirondack Park Agency, which should result in greater oversight of environmental regulations and more thorough and efficient review of projects affecting the environment. A dozen of the new DEC personnel will staff an office of climate change. There was also an increase of \$5 million for state parks capital projects.

The total environmental budget earmarks over \$1 billion. On Long Island we can look for more aggressive programs to combat invasive species such as cabomba weed, expanded marine mammal rescue programs, and the construction of a visitor center at the Oak Brush Plains Preserve in Deer Park.

A disappointment was the failure of the legislature to pass a "bigger, better bottle bill" that would include non-carbonated beverages and direct unclaimed deposits to the Environmental Protection Fund. Governor Spitzer had included the bill in his Executive Budget, but it did not pass legislative review. Discussions will continue and a bill may be agreed upon before the legislative session ends in June.

With new majorities in Congress to combat the Bush administration's anti-environmental policies and a governor and legislature that seem to be on a positive path, the outlook for environmental progress is brighter than it has been in a long time. For a change, we can look forward to a truly happy Earth Day this April 22.

Wicks Farm in Review Catherine Fitts, Chair Wicks Farm Stewardship Committee

Work days at Wicks farm have resumed in 2007, but sputtered to a stop because of the ice storm on March 16th along with the Woodcock Watch. However, each night before the storm, Woodcocks were heard and seen. Because of the diligent crew of volunteers, especially Susan and Paul Aidala and Dick Furman, no one tripped during the evening programs. Bluebirds have been seen at Wicks Farm around the birdhouses, but no one took up residence yet. Last year there were House Wrens, Tree

Swallows, Starlings, and even a couple of white-footed mice nesting in the bird boxes. Hopefully, they will all have nesters this year.

The Huntington Audubon Society has the use of a truck to help transport our mower. It really helps to clear the trails and the area around the bird houses. We could use some additional help, especially someone with a gas-powered chain saw to cut the Russian olive trees that proliferate the property.

The following workdays are scheduled at Wicks Farm. Water is provided. Please call (631) 427-8623 if interested. Hope to see you at Wicks.

- Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12 Noon – May 5 and June 23
- Sundays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM – May 20 and June 10

Note: the mower and truck are available if any one has time during the week to mow.

A Welcome Visitor

The Reeves family has experienced a pleasant surprise at their feeder. Since November 14, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet has been visiting the suet feeder in the Reeves' yard in Northport, almost daily. It is most unusual for it to stay through the winter. It was only one of two Ruby-crowned Kinglets reported on the Great Backyard Bird Count this year in New York State.



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 11743-0735**



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 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.

May 2007

Saturday, May 5, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Leader of the Pack, African Wild Dogs* - Scientists estimate that there are only 3,000 to 6,000 wild dogs left throughout Africa. Dr. Pat Thomas, Curator of Mammals at the Bronx Zoo will tell us about the conservation work the Wildlife Conservation Society has undertaken in Botswana, Kenya, and Tanzania to save this endangered species, and give us a glimpse into the lives of the new pack of dogs at the zoo. Learn all about these beautiful, often misunderstood canines.

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library.

Sunday, May 20, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

June 2007

Sunday, June 10, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 PM - Membership meeting at the Cold Spring Harbor Library. *Audubon Sanctuaries of the Upper Hudson River* - Join us for a slide show on the "Flora and Fauna of Three Upper Hudson Valley Estuary Audubon Sanctuaries" - photos of plants and critters taken in the course of daily activities by Assistant Warden/Educator Larry Federman. This program will be followed by an overnight trip to visit these sanctuaries. (See page 8.)

Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 PM - Meeting of the Board of Directors at Cold Spring Harbor Library

Saturday, June 23, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon - Wicks Farm Spring clean-up. Contact Cathy Fitts (631) 427-8623.

Friday, June 29 - Deadline for the August - September - October *Killdeer*.

Get Rid of that Unused Perfume

As part of the Animal Enrichment Program, the Bronx Zoo's Mammal Department uses perfumes and colognes to encourage exploratory behavior and stimulate the senses of big cats and other animals. Please look in your closets, your drawers, and under the bathroom sink, ask your friends, and if you find any scents you no longer want call Stella Miller at (516) 682-5977. There also will be a box at the monthly membership meetings for drop offs.

The animals at the zoo will be VERY grateful!



Be sure to visit us on the web

www.huntingtonaudubon.org

Birders' Box

The trip to Point Lookout added Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Willet, Brant Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Sanderling, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Hermit Thrush, American Goldfinch, and Dark-eyed Junco to our year's list. At a private home in Baldwin we were treated to a rare bird, a male Western Tanager. At Montauk, we saw Black Duck, Common Eider, Black, Surf, and White-winged Scoters, Common Goldeneye, Great Cormorant, Common Merganser, Swamp Sparrow, Bonapart's Gull, and Wood Duck. We also saw many backyard birds at Montauk, but the bird of the day was without question the Thick-billed Murre. 30 people attended the Woodcock Watch seeing them display Sunday to Tuesday.

Number of species seen this calendar year on HAS trips is 82.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips organized by Huntington Audubon are free and open to the public. Birding 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 at 9:00 AM at the birding site and end around noon unless otherwise specified. 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.

May 2007

Sunday, May 6, 9 AM and Monday, May 7 - 11, 4:30 PM Bobolink Watch at Stillwell Woods. Leader: Dick Furman (631-692-7356).

Directions: Jericho Tpke. to South Woods Rd. in Syosset. Go north about 1-1/2 miles. As soon as you pass Syosset HS, look right for the entrance to Stillwell Woods Park. Drive around, past the ball fields to the end of the parking area near the gate to the trails.

Saturday, May 12 - Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem, NY and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River. The Wolf Center required advanced reservations, but you can still meet us at Pound Ridge. Contact Stella Miller (516-682-5977) for details.

Sunday, May 13, 8:00 AM - Central Park (note earlier time and this is Mother's Day). The finest spot for warblers and spring migrants around the Metropolitan area. Leader: Sharon Brody (516-433-5590).

Directions: Meet at the Boathouse in Central Park. It is 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 head toward the right, up the hill, cross the roadway and to the Boathouse.

Saturday, May 19, 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM - Bronx Zoo.

Directions: Whitestone Bridge to the Hutchinson River Pkwy North. Exit at Pelham Pkwy West. Follow this as it turns into Fordham Rd. You will see the Rainey Gate Zoo entrance on the left. Go a bit further up, then make a U-turn in order to access this parking lot. We will have reserved parking. Contact Stella Miller (516-682-5977). (*See article on page 8.*)

Sunday, May 20, 6:45 AM - Birdathon - All day trip. Participate for all or part of the day and leave at any time. Begin at the parking lot on 76th Ave of Alley Pond Park, then Forest Park, then Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Bob May. This is a major fundraiser. Join us or sponsor a participant. Contact Ginger Mahoney (516-922-4599) for more information.

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

June 2007

For details of field trips in June and July see the article New Field Trips on page 8 and contact Stella Miller at 516-682-5977.

Saturday, June 16, 11:30 AM - Teatown Lake Wildflower Island Preservation Private Guided Tour.

Directions: Rt. 87 north to Exit 9, Tarrytown (last exit before Tappan Zee Bridge). Take Rt. 9 north to Ossining. In Ossining, watch for Rt. 133 on your right, Rt. 133 is also called "Croton Avenue." Remain on Rt. 9. At the third light after Rt. 133, make a right from Rt. 9 onto Cedar Lane. Cedar Lane will become Spring Valley Road. The Nature Center is on the left approximately 3.8 miles from Rt. 9. Approximate travel time is 1 hour. **\$6 fee applies. Please register by June 6.** Call Stella Miller (516-682-5977).

Saturday, June 30, 8:00 AM - Buttercup Farm Sanctuary Nature Ramble. **Directions :** From the Taconic Parkway, exit at US Rt 44. Make left (north) on Rt 82. Follow Rt 82 through Stanfordville, continue approx 4 miles until you see sign for Buttercup Farm on right. It will be a sharp left into the parking lot. Approximate travel time is 2½ hours. Leader: Stella Miller (516-682-5977).

July 2007

Saturday, July 14 - Sunday July 15 - Rheinstrom Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, RamsHorn Livingston Sanctuary, Minnewaska State Park Preserve Hike and Canoe Trip.

Directions to Rheinstrom: From the Taconic Pkwy exit at Rt 23. Proceed east approximately 4½ miles to Craryville. Go right on County Rt 7. Proceed approximately 1½ miles to Cambridge Rd. Go left. Continue on Cambridge Rd to Sanctuary entrance. Proceed up hill to marked parking area on the right. Approximate travel time is 3 hours. Leader: Stella Miller (516-682-5977).



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

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May - June - July 2007



Printed on recycled paper.



Field Trips

See the Field Trip page for times and directions.

Join us on a visit to the **Bronx Zoo** on May 19th to see the African Wild Dogs that were the topic of our May meeting! We will have a Bronx Zoo docent guiding us, with special visits to the African Wild Dog exhibit, Congo Gorilla Forest, World of Birds, and Tiger Mountain. The tour runs to approximately 3:30. Bring your own lunch or purchase at café. Group size is strictly limited to 10.

On June 16, we'll visit **Teatown Lake Wildflower Island Preservation for a Private Guided Tour**. Teatown Lake Reservation is a regional environmental organization with an 834-acre nature preserve and education center located in the towns of Yorktown, Cortlandt, and New Castle, NY. Their Nature Center and outdoor animal exhibits are home to a variety of amphibians, birds of prey, mammals, and reptiles. The unique two-acre sanctuary, Wildflower Island, is home to over 230 native species of wildflowers, many of which are rare or endangered. Teatown maintains 7 trail loops which traverse 15 miles, over diverse terrain and habitats, including hardwood forests, laurel groves, and lush wetlands. At 8:00 AM we will explore some of the trails, before the 11:30 guided tour of the Wildflower Island.

On June 30, we head to **Buttercup Farm Sanctuary Nature Ramble** located in the northeastern corner of Dutchess County. Over 500 acres in size, Buttercup is an area of diverse habitats with rolling, open grasslands, second growth

and more mature woodlands, a former orchard, and a marshy, flooded woodland. There are six miles of trails throughout the sanctuary. Of special interest are nesting Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, Bobolinks, and other birds of the field. Both Golden-winged and Lawrence's Warblers are seen periodically. The sanctuary is relatively undeveloped.

An **overnight hike and canoe trip** is planned for July 14 - 15 to **Rheinstrom Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, RamsHorn Livingston Sanctuary, and Minnewaska State Park Preserve**. On the 14th we will visit Rheinstrom, which is a 1,037-acre sanctuary located in the southeastern corner of Columbia County. It provides great habitat for many bird species, and White-tailed Deer, Coyotes, Bobcats, and Black Bears. Next, we will head over to RamsHorn where we will join Larry Federman, Audubon Assistant Warden and Educator at 1:30 PM, for a canoe or kayak trip. This land contains the largest tidal swamp in the northern Hudson River estuary. One can hope to spot Bald Eagles, waterfowl, Woodcocks and a variety of other birds and wildlife. We will spend the night in New Paltz. There are plenty of places to stay in and around New Paltz. The next morning we will meet at 9:00 AM at Minnewaska State Park Preserve. Minnewaska State Park is situated in Ulster County on the dramatic Shawangunk Mountain ridge that rises more than 2,000 feet above sea level. The terrain is rugged and rocky, blanketed by dense hardwood forest encircling two lakes. Clear streams cut into valleys, incising sheer cliffs and ledges and emerging in waterfalls. We will hike some of the trails and enjoy the wildlife and scenery.