



PRESS RELEASE

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HUNTINGTON-OYSTER BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT FUNDING TO ASSIST RIVER OTTER STUDY

Oyster Bay, New York: The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society (“HOBAS”) will be funding two wildlife surveillance cameras to be placed in areas where river otters have been killed by motor vehicles in the Oyster Bay area, the President of the chapter announced today.

The cameras will help determine the effectiveness of structures designed to allow otters to travel over dams and other obstacles without crossing roads and, along with data collected from additional wildlife surveillance cameras placed in other known otter territories, they are part of a larger study to document the movements, population size, habitat use and behavior of the island’s river otters.

“Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon is committed to supporting the research of otters on the North Shore. As river otters reestablish their populations on Long Island, it is vital that we do all we can to welcome these charismatic mammals back home, providing them with safe travel corridors within their territories,” noted Stella Miller, President of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society.

According to wildlife biologist Mike Bottini, who completed a study documenting the presence of otters on Long Island in 2008-2009, river otters are slowly recolonizing the island, most likely from healthy populations in Westchester County and coastal Connecticut. Currently, the largest numbers of river otters on Long Island are found on the North Shore of Nassau County in the Oyster Bay-Cold Spring Harbor watershed. Road-kills may be a serious impediment for otters trying to disperse to suitable habitat elsewhere on Long Island.

Anyone finding a road-killed otter should contact the NYSDEC at (631) 444-0310. Because river otters are a top-of-the-food-chain aquatic carnivore, tissue samples can provide valuable information on the health of the aquatic ecosystem.

For information on how you can contribute to this research, including making a donation towards the purchase of additional cameras in the area, please contact Stella Miller at 516-695-0763 or stella.miller63@yahoo.com.

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving over 1,000 members in Huntington and Northern Oyster Bay Townships. The organization works to protect wildlife and its habitat through conservation action, advocacy, education and responsible recreation. www.hobaudubon.org.