



THE OSPREY

November/December 2015 — Vol. XL No. 5

Hunting the Wild Toki in the Land of the Rising Sun

Hannah Miranda

Japan is a volcanic archipelago, composed of four major islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. Varied habitats and geography aid in its bird diversity. A land full of rich culture and beautiful landscapes, it's a fascinating place to see birds. During my two week stay I was able to explore mountain, wetland, seacoast, pelagic, deciduous forest, and farm field habitats. Needless to say, I was kept busy with the abundance of birding locations wherever I went.

Our trip took place between July 7 and July 21 of 2015. Our home base was in Chiba Prefecture, where we stayed with relatives and birded locally. We also traveled to Yamagata Prefecture and Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture. The variety of locations we visited allowed us to see different birds in their environments. Each place we spent time in had its own birds and stories to go along with them.

During our travels my family and I took a short, three day trip to Yamagata Prefecture in the northern part of Honshu. Yamagata is comprised mostly of towering mountains and valleys filled with farm fields. The combination of these two made for beautiful scenery, as well as good birding. One place we visited was Yamadera, a series of shrines seated thousands of feet high in the mountains. The only way to reach them is to climb 1,000 ancient stone steps to the top. As we trekked up

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Byron Young, Osprey Award Winner with Pam Salaway, the speaker and Eileen Schwinn, past president and Osprey award presenter.

Fall Celebration of Birding

Sally Newbert

On Wednesday October 14 ELIAS members and friends flocked to The Birchwood in Polish Town In Riverhead for the annual dinner. With raffles, the addition of a Chinese Auction and a repeat performance by Pam Salaway as the speaker the evening turned out to be a very enjoyable and amusing one.

Byron Young won the Osprey Award for his contribution to the mission and goals of the club. He has indeed brought his knowledge and sure hand to the leadership of ELIAS. Eileen Schwinn introduced him as the award winner. It was not until the last line when she identified him as a fish guy, that we knew who the winner was. (He is also pretty good at birds, but probably won't admit it.)

Pam Salaway brought us looks at ourselves

as Mystics, Mavens or birders with Moxie. She ended her talk with a Birders' Theme song to the tune of Yankee Doodle Dandy. Here are the lyrics if you want to give it a try at home.

Birders' Theme Song

Words by Pam Salaway

We are happy, wacky birders,
always looking to the sky.
A real obsession with our target list--
we cannot even say why.
Were we destined to be birders?
Is our DNA all right?
Birders want to see them all
and tabulate the totals.
We're all that happy, wacky type!

To top it off *Newsday* ran an article in their fashion column the next Monday. It appears on our facebook page.

The President's Corner

North Fork Preserve

Byron Young

The North Fork Preserve is a 350 acre parcel of land along Sound Avenue in Riverhead that was purchased by Suffolk County a few years ago. In order to complete the purchase of the property the County had to prepare a conceptual plan for the development and utilization of the property. This effort has been completed presenting a daunting collection of recreational activities to consider. Now Suffolk County is in the process of preparing a Master Plan for the property, which is the next step in the process. Currently 125 acres of the property are designated for Passive Recreation; 175 acres are designated for Active Recreation and 50 acres, purchased with farmland monies has to be utilized for agricultural purposes. Historically, the 300 acres of the North Fork Preserve was a hunting preserve.

The adjacent 50 acre parcel of farmland property is fallow at this point but as already stated must be used for agricultural purposes which can include an equestrian facility. The County is looking into a Request for Proposals to conduct farming on that property while the Master Plan is completed.

The remaining property is being used for hunting during the hunting season, birding and other passive recreational activities during the non-hunting season. Passive recreation can be conducted during the hunting season if one is aware of the potential conflicts with hunters. Hunting is limited to 8 permitted hunters on any given day during the hunting season which runs from October 1 through January 31. The issue of hunting has been the cause of much concern among our members who bird the property.

There is enough in the conceptual plan to excite many folks who either support a suggested action or oppose a suggested action or three! Rather than delve into all of the proposed actions in the conceptual plan, let me discuss how I see this process working. The next important step is the hiring of a contractor to prepare the Master Plan for the property. This plan will by necessity have to discuss all of the proposed actions, their estimated costs, and

a time line for completion, which is the simple view. Following completion of the Master Plan, conservatively a multi-year process, the County Legislature will need to make a declaration regarding whether this plan will have an impact upon the environment. The county will have two choices here either a Positive Impact which will result in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Analysis or a Negative Impact, which if not challenged would mean that construction could follow. I would bet on a Positive Declaration, which will result in the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment document, another multi-year process. Should the County decide that there will be a Negative Impact, I would strongly expect the State DEC and many local environmental groups to speak out against such an action and force the County to conduct an Environmental Impact review?

I need to point out that Public Input will be part of the process during the development and review of the Master Plan and during the development and review of any Environmental Impact Assessment. This is going to become a lengthy process.

Now for a reality check. Even though the County has put forth a very ambitious conceptual plan for this property it has a tremendous amount of work to do before any shovel ready project can be undertaken. The money does not exist to undertake this effort in one giant construction project, or if it does where has it been hiding? The Master Plan would have to lay out the proposed order of construction, where the monies were coming from and how the property will be maintained (staffing, equipment, security to name a few recurring costs).

Our role in this process is to continuously monitor the development of the Master Plan, attend every meeting that we can, provide input into the development of the Master Plan where we can, provide comments to our elected officials in the County Legislature. If necessary we may need to reach out to State level officials to follow up on actions to protect the freshwater wetlands, rare plants and animals in the area and to insure that over

development does not occur on the site. The Conceptual Plan for the south portion of the property certainly looks like it would be over developed if everything came to fruition.

To conclude, please remember that this is only a Conceptual Plan at this point in time, to be followed by a Master Plan. I emphasize the word Plan here, as that is all it is, plans. We all plan many things in our lives but how many of them come to fruition as planned? Once the Master Plan is completed, there will be a legislative review, determination of environmental impact, most likely the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) review of that EIS, followed by modification to the Master Plan, if necessary. Once the Master Plan is finalized, the County will have to develop specific project proposal, obtain all of the necessary permits, secure funding for each project, hire a contractor to complete the project before starting again on the next phase. I am sure that I have missed a couple of steps in there somewhere however, the point I am attempting to make is that we are very early in the process and a long way from any shovel ready projects. I will not be so bold as to estimate the time it will take to complete even the Master Plan much less reaching a point where there is a contract to conduct any activities on the property.

We (ELIAS) will be in this for the long haul. There will be many more meetings to attend concerning this subject, and many opportunities to exercise your and our civic responsibilities. It is very important to continue to preserve our ever shrinking open space.

If you would like to voice your opinion on The North Fork Preserve the advisory committee is accepting public option.

Please email your comments to:

Nancy Gilbert, the chairperson of the advisory committee, at nancy@windswayfarm.com

Gwynn.Schroeder, the Legislative Aide to Legislator Al Krupski at Gwynn.Schroeder@suffolkcountyny.gov

ELIAS Meetings

Meetings are held at Quogue Wildlife Refuge, 3 Old Country Road, Quogue, NY.
All are welcome, there is no charge.

Monday, November 2nd, 2015, at 7:15 pm

OWLS, OWLS, OWLS

Joe Giunta

JOE GIUNTA will present a slide-illustrated program about the nine species of owls that can be seen in our area. We will find out when and where they can be found, what their lives are like, and what it is about owls that captures birders' imaginations. Emphasis will be placed on Long Island's two breeding species, Great Horned Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl.

Joe Giunta, a native New Yorker, has been birding the New York City region for over 20 years. A former math teacher and Program Chairman at Fort Hamilton High School, Joe is the birding instructor for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. He has led bird walks for the Nature Conservancy, New York City Audubon, Brooklyn Bird Club and regularly gives lectures on birding and leads bird walks for the South Fork Natural History Society (SOFO). He is a captain in the Brooklyn and South Nassau Christmas Counts and has participated in breeding bird surveys for New York State. An enthusiastic traveler, he has birded extensively in Central and South America. Joe is the owner of Happy Warblers LLC, a birding and educational travel company.

Fall Field Trips

Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 9:00 am

Hallock Farm Museum Fields & Hallock State Park

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

The walk starts at the Hallock Museum Farm on Sound Avenue in Riverhead. The roughly 2 mile walk goes through Museum fields checking the hedgerows and into the woods of the new Hallock State Park. Walking into the park we will reach dunes with spectacular views of Long Island Sound. We are hoping for a variety of migrants, and wintering birds. Bring binoculars. Dress for the weather. There is a \$7 charge for this walk, \$5 for members of Hallock Museum Farm. The fee benefits the Museum's education fund. Please call the Museum for reservations, 631-298-5292.

Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 9:00 am

William Floyd Estate

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

Come to Mastic for the last walk of the season at The William Floyd Estate. This 613 acre estate includes mowed fields, woods, creeks and salt marshes. With this variety of habitat we should

Monday, December 7nd, 2015, at 7:15 pm

Energy and Environmental Programs in Brookhaven

Anthony Graves

ANTHONY GRAVES works for the Town of Brookhaven as an Environmental Analyst. He will describe the town's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50%, by 2020. He will also discuss other environmental programs, including efforts to protect the islands of Moriches Bay.

Many of you will remember Anthony's excellent presentation on The Seychelles, an archipelago of 150 islands in the Indian Ocean, off of E. Africa. MBAS/ELIAS first learned of this island group from another member from Brookhaven...Dennis Puleston!

Anthony Graves' father Bill, was a former Moriches Bay Audubon Society member, he worked at BNL, and conducted a Hawk watch at Smith Point County Park for many years. Some of you "old-timers" might remember him, as well as his moving to Idaho when he retired, to volunteer at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey, in Idaho.

THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY.

find wintering hawks, ducks, sparrows, and perhaps Bluebirds. Round trip walk is about 3 miles. Bring binoculars. The main entrance is 245 Park Drive in Mastic. Call the trip leader MaryLaura Lamont at the Estate at 631.399.2030 for details.

December 2014

There are no field trips scheduled in December. We would encourage you to join one of Christmas Bird Counts or the Waterfowl Census. More details on page 4.

Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 9:00 am

Lakes around Patchogue

Trip Leader: John McNeil

Join John for a half-day excursion to what he calls "God's little oases for wintering waterfowl." Hopefully there will be a surprise or two to peak your interest! Meet at Swan Lake Preserve on Montauk Highway in East Patchogue. Contact John at 631.281.2623 for details. On the day of the trip, John's cell is 631.219.8947.

Christmas Bird Counts

There are no December Field Trips – instead, we will be inviting you to participate in the Christmas Bird Counts.

Each year, thousands of bird lovers and birders world-wide take to the field to do a little “snapshot” counting of what birds are found within a pre-determined count circle. Locally, there are a number of teams which head out – some beginning in the pre-dawn hours and completing after the sun sets, while other participants count from their kitchen windows throughout the day! Everything contributes to the most comprehensive observation of birds – species and numbers – around!

Locally, a number of count circles have been established and counted for over 50 years. And a great deal of information – and details – can be learned by looking at the following: www.audubon.org and following the links to the CBC. Learn which Count may be of interest to you – and where the Count Circles are located. Everyone is welcome to make the commitment to participate – any level of birder is welcome. For more details, please check the information below:

Quogue-Water Mill CBC

Saturday, December 19
Contact Steve Biasetti at sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org

Central Suffolk Sunday, December 27

Contact Eileen Schwinn at beachmed@optonline.net

Orient Saturday, January 2, 2016

Contact Pat Hanly at pat@mattpres.com

WATERFOWL CENSUS January 16 to 24

Yaphank to Peconic Bay

Contact Rosemary Valente at Paisanovich@yahoo.com

Montauk to Shinnecock

Contact Frank Quevedo at 631.537.9735 or sofoexdir@optonline.com

Reeves Bay to Noyack Bay and Fresh Pond to Sag Harbor

Contact John McNeil at 631.281.2623 or jpmcneil@verizon.net

Woodman - Spare that Tree!

Eileen Schwinn

On one of the last pleasant mornings early, this past Fall, instead of birding, I decided to sit on my back porch and have my morning coffee. Very peaceful! I heard and saw the usual resident Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Cardinals, Blue Jays, and Catbirds. As I was getting ready to go inside, I was aware of a sudden movement in the large cypress tree alongside the deck. A flash of mid-sized, reddish “Bird” flew out and into the trunk of a nearby tree. Literally, INTO the trunk! Thirty years ago – during Hurricane Gloria – we lost the tops of about 16 trees in our yard. Most were cut down over time, but this one tree – the last remaining trunk, actually – has been on my husband’s To Do List. But each time the chain-saw was fired up, I’d go out and hug that tree! You see, it’s been the viewing spot for countless birds, as they check out my usually filled-to-the brim bird feeders. And a singing post, a buggy tree trunk for Creepers and Woodpeckers, and a hiding place for squirrels. The FLASH this morning, however, well, only one bird came to mind! Since I couldn’t see anything in the trunk – and I did have other things to get along and do, I decided to check the trunk throughout the day. Nearly every time I came out to the deck, a couple of Titmice and Chickadees would be there “worrying” and peering down into the trunk. And occasionally, a Blue Jay or two would do the same. As sunset approached, I decided to delay the preparation of dinner (those of you who know me, know this is not highly unusual!!) I returned to my porch bench, camera and binoculars in hand. I got settled, and glanced at the tree trunk – Oh, my goodness – there were two eyes watching me – And here is what I saw:



I zoomed my camera lens in, and saw all the lovely details of a red-morph Eastern Screech Owl who elected to spend a day resting in my yard!



I approached the trunk to get a closer look, and the bird poked back DOWN into the tree. Returning to my bench – and now, the sun had set and it was getting darker by the minute – I saw the owl pop back up – I snapped another shot or two, blinked, and the owl was silently gone! Hopefully, it launched to dine on a vole or mole or two who also have decided to spend some time in my yard!!!

And now, that trunk is permanently off the To Do List – *Woodman, really Spare that TREE!!*



All memberships are now renewable in January.

Renew now for 2016!

Your renewal will keep ELIAS strong.

A Letter to Legislator Krupski on the Future of North Fork Preserve from the ELIAS Board

Dear Legislator Krupski,

Eastern Long Island Audubon Society would like to share with you these comments on the impending development of the North Fork Preserve. No development of any kind should take place on site until the freshwater wetlands map produced by New York State DEC. is accepted and approved. The wetlands have been fully mapped for the first time and are much more extensive than the County realizes. As per the County's current "conceptual" plans it appears campsites, cabins, RV sites and other active recreational sites are located in wetlands.

This Park is an extremely sensitive ecological site with a vast interconnected series of freshwater wetlands as well as 3 identified State Rare Plant Communities, which will be either destroyed or compromised by development plans. These State Rare and Ranked communities include Red Maple Swamp, White Oak Swamp, Red Maple-Black Gum Swamp, and Coastal Oak-Beech Forest. The County must prepare a full environmental impact statement before any development plans are proposed because the site is so ecologically significant.

ELIAS would like to point out how unique the entire parcel is for bird life. This sensitive parcel has a variety of habitats thus offering feeding, resting and breeding sites for many species of birds. Some of the New York State Endangered species of birds that use this site are Peregrine Falcon and Short-eared Owl. Threatened species of birds that depend on the site include Northern Harrier and Bald eagle. Species of Special Concern include Red-shouldered Hawk, Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Yellow-breasted Chat, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows. The entire parcel is significant because it provides habitat for thousands of birds, specifically declining neo-tropical species of birds, as they migrate over Long Island Sound either north or south.

One of the reasons why field species of birds are in such severe decline is because their habitat, open fields, is the fastest

disappearing ecosystem in the United States. The North Fork Preserve has field habitat for these species but every field on the development plan will be developed into ballparks or activity fields, thereby further eliminating the bird species that so critically rely on field habitat.

The multi active recreation planned for

this 300+ acre parcel should be given a hard look, and a full environmental impact statement must be prepared because of the parcel's ecological significance.

Respectfully submitted,

*Board of Directors of
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society.*

Big Apple's Convention Center Becomes Bird Friendly

Jacob K. Javits was a well-respected politician who served as a United States Senator (R-NY) from 1957 to 1981. In his day, he held an admirable environmental voting record.

Unfortunately, the building which bears his name, the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on the west side of Manhattan, has a less-than-stellar environmental record. With severe angles and a mirror-like facade, this NY State-owned building has been a major site for bird fatalities.

The center's five-year renovation, finished exactly one year ago, cost a half-billion dollars. An assessment is probably in order, and the center – the Big Apple's largest venue for conventions, trade shows, and special events – is today far more welcoming to birds.

Reportedly, the new glass panels imprinted with tiny patterns have reduced bird collisions and deaths by 90 percent. Additionally, the building's new green roof – the second-largest green roof on a single, free-standing building in the U.S. – has attracted many bird species as well as five species of bats.

The new glass panels, covered with tiny dots, or "fritting," were the final choice after considering 15 eco-friendly alternatives. The choice to use glass paneling sprinkled with small white dots is because apparently the dots are more easily seen by flying birds than they are by people. This feature can also naturally cool the building and, with other improvements, the energy consumption has been reduced by a reported 26 percent.

The green roof also captures rainwater, helping to deter the potential discharge of 6.8 million gallons of runoff per year into NYC waterways. The roof also apparently moderates air temperatures being drawn into the rooftop HVAC units and helps reduce temperature extremes inside the building. Beyond the songbirds that visit the roof "habitat," Herring Gulls have nested there. Last year there were six nests; this year there were 12. (Oh, yes, Canada Geese nest on the roof, too.)

New York City Audubon has even located two American Kestrel nesting boxes on the roof, along with mounting an ultrasonic acoustic recording unit, a specialized microphone, to detect bat sounds. Since this installation, five of the nine possible bat species found in New York have been recorded over the Javits Center roof. There are also three bee hives on the roof.

The building's renovation was undertaken by FXFowle Architects, whose principal, Bruce S. Fowle, is a bird enthusiast. His wife, Marcia T. Fowle, also sits on the board at New York City Audubon.

Mr. Fowle said that the New York State owners did not necessarily want to spend extra money simply for bird protection. But the same creative features that made the building more economical and environmentally sound had the added bonus of being bird-and-nature friendly.

You can read more on the project, with an emphasis on the roof, here:

<http://www.greenroofs.com/projects/pview.php?id=1512>

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Hunting the Wild Toki in the Land of the Rising Sun

the steps I caught a glimpse of a Blue and White Flycatcher and observed two playful Brown-eared Bulbuls as they squawked in the cedar trees. Right next to our onsen, or Japanese hot spring hotel, there was an abandoned field. With a watchful eye, we spotted some Little-Ringed Plover, Oriental Greenfinch, and White Wagtail. At any given time Gray Herons could be seen with their heads peeking out of the rice paddies on the sides of the road. Yamagata proved to be a short, but certainly beautiful and worthwhile excursion.

Later during the trip we were lucky enough to visit Sado Island, located off the coast of Niigata in the Sea of Japan. Rural and isolated, it was one of our most significant birding destinations. During our four day, three night trip there we saw 22 species. The only way to reach Sado Island is by ferry which gives visitors a chance at some pelagic birding. Streaked Shearwaters and Black-Tailed Gulls were a

common sight on the open ocean during the ferry ride there. The island itself offered more exciting birds. In an ancient cedar forest thousands of feet up in the mountains, we encountered a flock of Willow Tits. Siberian Meadow Buntings were often seen singing on the tree tops and a pair of Mandarin Ducks was found on a farm field off the side of the road.

Another interesting bird we encountered was the Bush Warbler, or Uguisu. The Bush Warbler is famous for its "hot-ket-kyot" song which symbolizes the beginning of spring to locals who hear it. While high up in the mountains of Sado we heard the Bush Warbler sing its song and believed it to be only a few feet away. Wanting a glimpse of the small bird we waited patiently for our chance to see it. It continued to vocalize within close proximity but refused to reveal itself. We left feeling a bit defeated until we talked to a local birder the next day. He explained

that most people are never able to view the bird at all, and just hear it as we did. He himself had only seen it once, on accident. The Bush Warbler seemed to be a very stealthy and mysterious bird, even for locals.

My best bird of the trip however,

was definitely the Japanese Crested Ibis, *Nipponia nippon*, better known as the Toki. In the last century, over hunting and environmental pollution caused Toki numbers to drop at an alarming rate. Starting in the 1960's efforts were made to avoid complete extinction. The remaining wild birds were captured on Sado as well as some from China. Through tireless work and dedication the people of Sado successfully bred Tokis in captivity and are now slowly releasing some into the wild. Today there is a small but established population that lives and breeds on Sado Island. In addition, farmers refrain from using harmful pesticides on their paddies and farms to avoid potential habitat destruction for the Tokis. These beautiful birds were able to escape extinction thanks to a community effort to protect them.

We visited the Toki Museum located in Ryotsu one afternoon, in hopes of gaining some information about the wild Tokis' whereabouts. At the museum, captive Tokis could be viewed and there were interactive displays explaining the preservation effort. At one point a Toki mascot even roamed around, inviting children to take pictures with him! After experiencing the museum thoroughly, we inquired about the wild Tokis and their location. A kind staff member explained directions to a popular roosting spot, but warned that the birds were rarely seen outside of the early morning. Despite our incorrect timing, we decided to check out the spot anyway. The roosting spot turned out to be a



A Gray Heron peeking out of a rice patty on Sado Island.

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local rice paddy bordered by dense forest. The Tokis were rumored to perch on the outskirts of the forest, allowing beautiful looks for birders. Not far from the paddy was the “Toki Release Station” where captive Tokis are released. We waited for awhile but no Tokis appeared. Just as we were pulling away in our car, a large rosy pink bird flew straight across the paddy. My mother yelled, “That’s it! That’s it!” and just like that, we had officially seen a wild Toki. A few minutes later, it flew back across the paddy, this time accompanied by a second bird. We watched them fly into the distance, grateful for the rare encounter with the beautiful Tokis.

It was fortunate that we saw those birds when we did, because we never crossed paths with the Toki again on that trip. Due

to an oncoming typhoon, we were forced to leave Sado early and hopped on a ferry back to Niigata. We then traveled back across Honshu to spend the remainder of our trip in Chiba with our family.

When we finally returned to New York, I had gained a renewed sense of culture, a boatload of pictures, and an experience that will forever remain in my memory. In total, I saw 40 species, including 34 lifers. Japan is a beautiful country, one I hope to visit again soon. From Bush Warblers to Black-Tailed Gulls, Japan has it all!

Hannah Mirando is a sophomore at East Hampton High School and a member of the Young Birders Club. An article about her Big Day raising money for the Young Birders Club appeared in our July/August issue.



Black Kite flying on Sado Island



Captive Tokis at the Toki Museum, Ryotsu, Sado Island



Hannah birding at the Yamagata Sports Complex. Below: Field where the wild Tokis were finally spotted.



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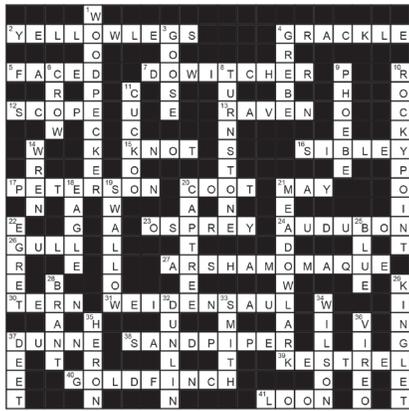
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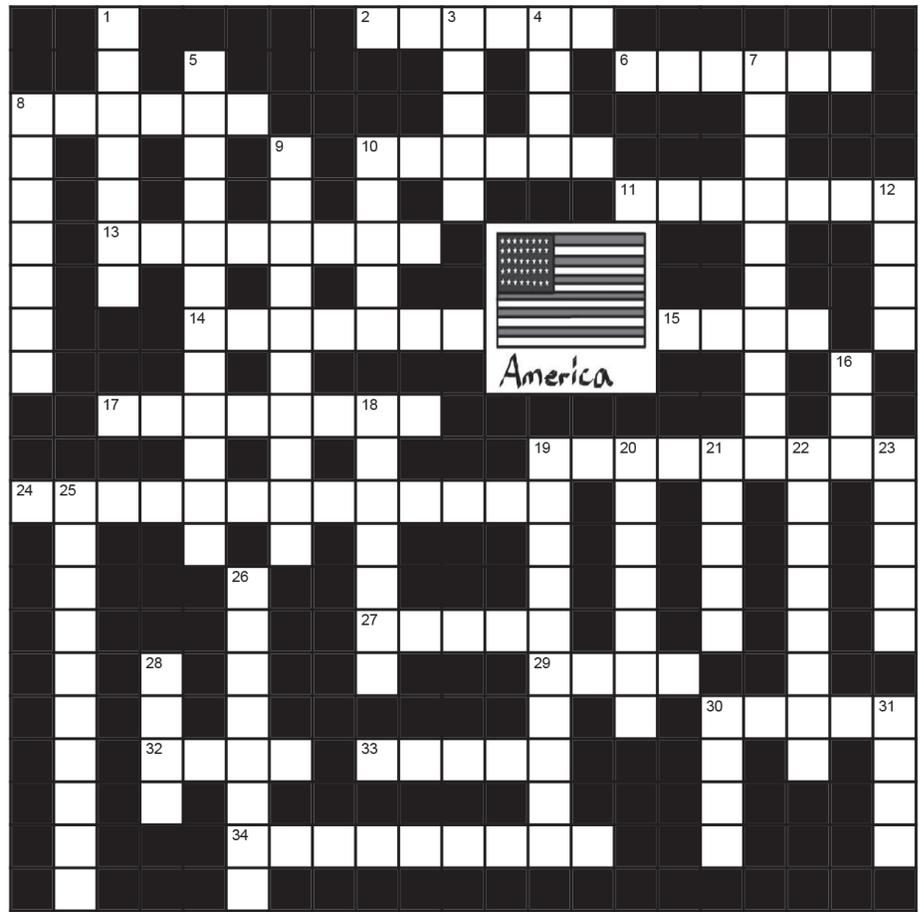
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on Facebook!**

Answers to last issue's puzzle The Next Best Thing by Tom Moran



American Birds Tom Moran



Across

- 2 _____ River Preserve, aka Kempf Preserve
- 6 _____ Lark, check the parking lot at Smith Pt
- 8 Gyr _____ will it return to Gilgo Beach this winter?
- 10 _____ Vulture
- 11 Upper _____ Lake, this was a good place to see a Trumpeter Swan
- 13 First part of answer, with 5 Down, a good sighting of a small flock of these was had on the Riverhead sod farms this summer
- 14 Northern _____, check out Great Patchogue Lake
- 15 _____ Swallow
- 17 American _____, amazing courtship flight, Peent!
- 19 Common or Barrow's _____
- 24 American _____, flamboyant orange bill
- 27 American _____, it's going to be a while before his return announces spring
- 29 _____ Road, from Shinnecock to Cupsogue
- 30 _____ Cove, a Pacific Loon was observed there in 2012
- 32 American _____, runs on water to take off
- 33 Dark-eyed _____
- 34 Buff-breasted and Pectoral _____ were seen in the ponds west of Teddy Roosevelt Sanctuary

Down

- 1 _____ Floyd Estate, a pair of Eagles made a nest there this year
- 3 Birder's _____, software program
- 4 As Shakespeare pointed out "What's in a _____", Old Squaw or Long-tailed Duck?
- 5 The second part of the answer to 13 Across
- 7 Black or Yellow-crowned _____
- 8 Northern _____, Yellow or Red-shafted?
- 9 _____ Bay, where a drake was seen Jan and Feb 2015
- 10 _____ Beach, Common Redpolls were spotted here in January 2015
- 12 Red _____ got horseshoe crab eggs?
- 16 In the Adirondacks you might get a Gray _____
- 18 Gray _____, a mimic with a mew call
- 19 Common _____, found at Jones Beach West End last November and December (2 words)
- 20 Northern _____, Eurasian species, seen at Deep Hollow Ranch last November
- 21 Bald _____, the American bird
- 22 Seatuck Creek in _____ is a good place to get winter waterfowl
- 23 Snowy or Great _____
- 25 Greater or Lesser _____
- 26 Tufted _____, small gray bird
- 28 Could be a Whistling, Perching, Dabbling _____
- 30 _____ Mountain, PA
- 31 _____ Lake, Patchogue

FROM A CAMPER'S EYE VIEW

What is camp really like?

Last year's camper, who we have sponsored several times, wrote us the a wonderful thank you letter. We are delighted to share it and hope he is able to follow the career path he may have found at camp.

Dear ELIAS,

Thank you very much for sponsoring me and giving me the opportunity to attend the D.E.C. Camp – Pack Forest. I am very grateful for the opportunity you gave me to experience this wonderful camp that opened countless doors to me.

This year I got to meet many new staff members, the addition of these new counselors at the camp made it a new experience for me. For example I learned how fire is created through the broad science of environmental chemistry.

My ambition now is to become a counselor at one of the D.E.C. camps and to study one of the environmental sciences that was shared with me by the counselors at Pack Forest. We explored nature, the animals around us, and learned in depth about the cycle of many living things on earth. This has intrigued me and led me to hope that one day I could become one of the staff at this camp or perhaps another D.E.C. camp.

So I thank you with all the gratitude I can offer for giving me a new world of possibilities especially one that may lead to a career at the D.E.C. Your financial support has allowed me to go to this camp, to learn new things, meet new people, eat good food, and to find a part of me I could never have found before if I never went to these amazing camps.

Unfortunately, many other children of my age have not had this experience and have not had the opportunity your organization has offered me. Once again, thank you so much for making this amazing camp a part of my life.

David from Riverhead, NY.

Teen Scholarships Are Available for Summer Camp

ELIAS is offering scholarships for three students in grades 7 through 12 to attend New York State Department of Conservation camps for one week. Campers will choose between camps in the Adirondacks, Catskills, or western New York State. Campers enjoy fishing, hiking, canoeing, volleyball, and hunter safety training. Activities such as sampling streams for aquatic life and hiking in the dark to listen to the sounds in the woods are designed to bring conservation concepts to life. More information about the camps is available at www.dec.ny.gov. Search for teen camps.

The candidate should be interested in the environment, and anxious to learn more. (Parents need not be ELIAS members, but the camper must live in Eastern Long Island.)

Here is what the candidates need to do:

- Write an essay stating why they are worthy candidates of the scholarship. Include environmental experiences and interests. Also, describe what benefit they might derive from the experience.
- At the bottom of the essay, the candidate should include his or her name, address, city, state, zip, phone, date of birth, name of school and grade. The student should also note if and when he or she has attended an outdoor education/ecology camp. Previous scholarship winners may reapply.
- Parents should attach a letter stating that they are aware of the transportation stipulation (see below).

If accepted:

- Campers are responsible for their own transportation to and from the camp and for their own physical examination, if the camp requires it.

For more information, call Suzi at (516) 443-4906 or Evelyn at 631-727-0417.

Please send essay and information by January 12, 2016 to:

Education Committee, ELIAS, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Name of school _____ Grade _____

Have you ever attended an outdoor education/ecology camp? If SO, what camp, where, and when _____

Applicant's signature _____

Date _____

Field Trips



On September 12 we met at North Fork County Preserve, the property we are fighting hard to keep as a natural area. There was a fair amount of activity, usually high up in the trees or fleeting, so it was hard to ID the species. There were warblers passing through, and several species were identified. Some of the highlights included Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos and American Redstarts. (Left) There was a nice clearing in the woods. Our heads were spinning trying to catch the action.



The next field trip to the Fire Island Hawk watch (left & below) was delayed by a week, because of the weather. But it dawned a beautiful day on October 10 and some hardy souls made it down to Robert Moses. We walked to the lighthouse and stopped at the Hawk Watch Platform. It was not terribly birdy, but we did spot Merlin, Kestrel, several Myrtle Warblers and several types of sparrows.



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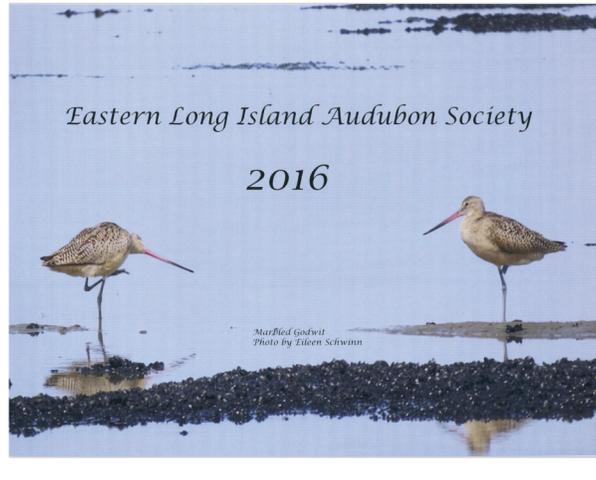


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eliasosprey@optonline.net

Chapter Renewal & Membership

For \$20 a year, you will receive 6 issues of *The Osprey* and you will be supporting our local education and conservation activities.

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Please be sure to include your email. You will receive an email confirmation, a pdf of the first newsletter and occasional updates and notices of any program changes. This list is not shared.

Make check payable to: **Eastern Long Island Audubon Society**

and mail to: ELIAS Membership,
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