



# The OSPREY

November/December 2014 — Vol. XXXIX No. 5



Byron Young, ELIAS president congratulates Tom Moran, the Osprey Award winner. Chris Paparo makes sure all the guests get a close-up view of Emmy, his Red-tail Hawk.

Far right, Emmy, looking down on the audience.

The Southampton Room at the East Wind started filling up around 6 pm on October 15 for the ELIAS Annual Dinner Celebrating Birding on Long Island. First to take center stage, Eileen Schwinn, past ELIAS president, announced the winner of the Osprey Award given to someone who has made significant contributions to the goals of the club. Her introduction called for audience participation, so aided by ELIAS president, Byron Young, and with Al Scherzer filling in the blanks, everyone did a crossword puzzle to guess the winner. If you do our crossword puzzle, you probably guessed, Tom Moran, ELIAS treasurer and creator of our crossword puzzle was the winner.

If Lady Hawk is one of your favorite movies, this year's speaker was sure to please. Chris Paparo is a licensed falconer. He recounted how he became a falconer, how, and when he captured his hawk, Emmy. How he now hunts with Emmy —

and his dog. His presentations included photos, videos and to top off the night Emmy made an appearance and he toured the room with her so everyone was able to get a great look at her. She was calm and extremely well behaved.

There were over 35 raffle prizes awarded sending many people home with some very nice gifts. ■



## The President's Corner

# Thoughts on Year in Review

### Byron Young

With the completion of another successful annual Dinner, it reminds me that another year has passed for ELIAS. The Dinner Committee out did themselves again with a very fine speaker, Chris Paparo and his Red Tailed Hawk, Emmy; a nice venue; the chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones and enjoy a fine meal. Technology worked with us for the Annual Dinner with a more than adequate speaker system provided by the facility and a portable speaker system that allowed Chris to move about the room with Emmy and talk with his hands. We will have to keep our lessons learned for future events.

ELIAS members as usual carried on with a fine series of monthly bird walks, by my count twenty-three, which exceeded last years total. Our walks ranged from Hempstead Lake State Park to the South Fork Natural History Museum and a couple of stops along the North Fork. The walks were quite well attended with the exception of one Smith Point Walk where only four dedicated birders showed up under the treat of heavy rains, OK, maybe not so dedicated. Even the birds were smart enough to seek cover. Member participated in the Christmas Bird Count again this year continuing a long series of annual data collections alive. In addition, many members participated in the Great Back Yard Bird Count, the Winter Waterfowl Count, and our own bird feeder survey. In addition to all of that ELIAS Members helped with the Quogue Wildlife Refuge Earth Day event, the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge Migratory Bird Day and our Annual Bird Seed Sale in conjunction with the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. This all made for a very busy year.

Local environmental issues continue to occupy some of our time; the Calverton Grasslands; EPCAL development; Plum Island; and The North Fork Preserve. New issues that came up during the year were a couple of New York State DEC bird management plans. The Mute Swan Management plan caused quite a stir and resulted in a good deal of public comment. As a result of the Public Comment the

plan is being reviewed and will be revised and resubmitted for additional public comment. The second plan released for public comment was the Black Skimmer Management Plan. ELIAS submitted comments on this plan and they are being considered by the agency at this time. The Black Skimmer Management Plan is essentially a guidance document for the State DEC to follow as it provides protection for this species. I

am sure that I have forgotten something important.

In summary, it was another wonderful year for ELIAS. I wish to thank all of our members who participated in our monthly meetings and events. Without your help and support none of this would be possible.

Thank you all.

## Nature Walks

Saturday, November 15, 2014 meet at 9:00 am

### Hallockville & Hallock State Park

Leader MaryLaura Lamont

Walk along the edge of the farm fields, into the woods, by the pond, and up on to dunes of Jacob's Hill that offers unmatched views of Long Island Sound. The varied habitats provides for a diversity of migrants and wintering bird residents. Bring binoculars for this 2 hour walk of spectacular views and good birding. For additional details call Hallockville at 631-298-5292. There is a \$5 charge for this walk benefiting the Hallockville Museum Farm.

Saturday, November 16, 2014 at 9:00 am

### William Floyd Estate

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. This variety of habitat that should turn up 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. See the listing on page 4.

Saturday, January 3, 2015 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 the Swan Lake Club House on Lake Drive in East Patchogue. (On Montauk Hwy Swan Lake Cleaners and Robo car wash is at that corner). Contact John at 631.281.2623 for details. On the day of the trip, John's cell is 631.219.8947. ■

# ELIAS Meetings

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

Monday, November 3, 2014 at 7:15 pm

## Long Island Aquarium comes to visit

The Long Island Aquarium and Exhibition Center will be bringing whelks, spider crabs, clams, hermit crabs and horseshoe crabs to discuss the importance of horseshoe crabs and migrating sea birds. They will go into detail about local sea birds like Osprey, Heron, Egrets, and Piping Plover, and speak briefly on penguins and parrots that are located at the aquarium. Presentation will be about an hour.

### GET INVOLVED

Would you like to submit an article or a photo?

We would like to hear from you.  
Contact: [eliasosprey@optonline.net](mailto:eliasosprey@optonline.net).

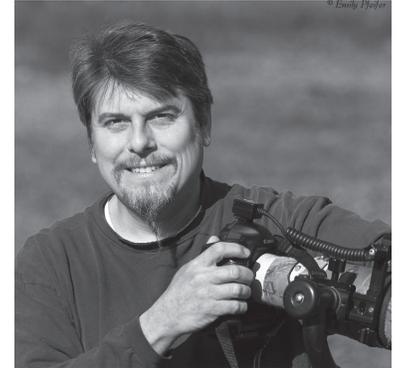
Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:15

## There's No Place Like Home

Tom Pfeifer

Long Island Nature and Wildlife Photographer presents some of his favorite images of the birds and other wild inhabitants that share this island we call home, with an emphasis on the variety of visitors found in his own yard.

Anyone who attended the last two QWR/ ELIAS Earth Day Celebrations has probably seen his display of nature photographs. Besides showing his technical talents, and appreciation of nature, also provided a look into his artistic soul!



## Trip to the Sunken Forest



JOHN MCNEIL



BOB GUNNING

Bob Gunning

On September 13 we left Sayville on the 10:30 ferry to Sailors Haven. The skies were a little overcast and the seas were choppy. Many DC cormorants seen on the bulkheads. We arrived at the Sunken Forest at 11:05 and all 13 of us were on there way. The Catbirds were everywhere and a few Mockingbirds were seen. A few Chickadees were in the trees, and the Crows were calling. Robins were in the trees and the swallows were en mass on their southern migration. The mosquitos were very active along the way. John pointed out a tree with a wrap around hole pattern made by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. (pictured right). The ocean produced numerous gulls, Herring, Greater Black-back and Ring-billed. A lone Yellow Legs was on the shoreline. Continuing along the pathway a Harrier flew over our heads. Overall it was a slow day for birding but a better day with the fellow birders than being home. We departed on the 3 pm ferry and arrived back in Sayville for the ride home, just in time to miss the rain. Thanks to John McNeil for the leadership. ■.



BOB GUNNING

# Christmas Bird Counts & Waterfowl Census

With the holiday season approaching, it is once again time to think about the winter bird counts. ELIAS members participate in a series of ten counts — five Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) sponsored by the National Audubon Society and five winter waterfowl censuses sponsored by the New York Ornithological Association (NYSOA).

If you would like to participate as a field observer or a feeder watcher in any of the listed CBC's, or as a participant in any of the waterfowl censuses, please contact the compiler of that count. There is no fee for either count. The compilers try to be flexible so that participants can bird with the group until they need to go. Please do not hesitate to ask if you can participate. All help is welcome.

Experienced birders are needed, but beginners are most welcome. Field parties who are familiar with the territory will help beginners learn their way around. This is the way we can we develop a group of skilled, committed observers to continue the tradition.

Feeder watchers who live within the count circle are also needed to provide to record the number and species that appear at the feeder during the count day.

For the most part, counting begins as soon as it is light enough to see (around 6:30 to 7:00 am) and continues until it is too dark to see anymore (around 5:00 pm). However, to hunt for owls, some observers start a few hours before daylight and continue for a while after dark. At least eight hours of field observation during daylight hours in a CBC circle is required for acceptance of a CBC report.

Field coverage is primarily done by a combination of walking and driving, bicycling, boating or other modes of transportation may also be used.

**The Winter Waterfowl Censuses** have been compiled in New York State since 1955. These too are done in assigned territories, but only birds such as ducks, geese, swans, cormorants, grebes, and coots are counted. These censuses are usually done in mid-January by the same CBC compilers. If you would like to participate please contact a compiler.

Count	Date	Compiler	Contact Information
Quogue to Water Mill CBC	Sun., Dec. 14	Steve Biasetti	sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org
Montauk CBC	Sat., Dec. 20	Karen Rubinstein Angus Wilson	karrubi@gmail.com oceanwanderers@gmail.com
Sagaponack CBC	Sun., Dec. 21	Karen Rubinstein	karrubi@gmail.com
Central Suffolk CBC	Sat., Dec. 27	Eileen Schwinn	516.662.7751 beachmed@optonline.net
Orient CBC	Sat., Jan. 3	Patrick Hanly	pat@mattpres.com
Smith Point to Shinnecock Inlet WF Census	TBA	Jay Kuhlman Coordinator	sjkuhlman@aol.com 631.878.4461
Yaphank to Peconic Bay WF Census	Midweek Jan 18 to 26	John McNeil	631.281.2623 jpmcneil@verizon.net
Montauk to Shinnecock Canal WF Census	Jan 19 to 25 Target Date Sat., Jan. 24	Frank Quevedo	631.537.9735 sofoexdir@optonline.net
Reeves Bay to Noyack Bay WF Census	Midweek Jan 18 to 26	John McNeil	631.281.2623 jpmcneil@verizon.net
Fresh Pond to Sag Harbor WF Census	Midweek Jan 18 to 26	John McNeil	631.281.2623 jpmcneil@verizon.net

Please use the chart above to contact the compiler and join the CBC and/or the Waterfowl Census.

There are no walks scheduled in December so people can volunteer to help with the Christmas Bird Counts and the waterfowl census.

There is no meeting in January to avoid possible bad weather. ■

## BARTH'S DRUG STORE

Barry D. Barth R.Ph.  
32 East Main St.  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm  
Saturday 9am to 4pm  
Sunday 9am to 2pm



# Duck, Duck and Sometimes A Goose

Eileen Schwinn

Have you ever wondered what a Duck Stamp is? Do you KNOW what a Duck Stamp is?? Hunters have needed them since 1934, and they are pictorial stamps – sold at most U.S. Post Offices – produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Officially called The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, they are not valid for postage but they are vital for providing funds for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar collected by the sale of the stamps goes directly to purchase or lease habitat as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The first Duck Stamp was issued on 1934, at President Franklin D. Roosevelt's request, and it was designed by Jay "Ding" Darling. The artist was Chief of the Biological Survey, a precursor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Ding" conceived the idea of using the stamps to raise money for land purchases. His nickname, Ding, was the signature on all the cartoons he produced during his newspaper career, and was derived by combining his last name's first initial and last three letters. An avid hunter and fisherman himself, Darling used his cartoons to encourage observation of the government regulation of these two sports, and pioneered the field of proper game management. His efforts brought hunters and conservationists together, and he believed people would benefit from nature without destroying it. His home on Captiva Island, Florida provided the opportunity to encourage the establishment of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge, which was renamed "Ding" Darling NWR in 1978.

An annual competition is held to pick the design of the year's stamp, the only art competition sponsored by the U.S. Government. Each year's theme shows waterfowl as a miniature work of art! No prize money is given to the winner, just the honor of having their creation on the stamp.

The Duck Stamp not only contributes funds for land use, it also entitles the



holder to free entry into National Wildlife Refuges which normally charge admission. Required by hunters, birders should be encouraged to purchase the \$15 Duck Stamp annually, showing their support of



The first duck stamp was in 1934. This year's stamp features a pair of Canvasback

land and waterfowl conservation. Buy one for yourself, and a birding friend – your wintering ducks – and geese – will thank you! ■

## Remembering Paul Stoutenburgh

Paul Stoutenburgh, a long-time Cutchogue resident, passed away on July 14 at the age of 92. He was a true environmental advocate. For 50 years he wrote a weekly column, "Focus on Nature" in the Suffolk Times and Riverhead News-Review.

At a ceremony on March 14, 2013 to re-name the Arshamomoque Pond Preserve, The Paul Stoutenburgh Preserve, his wife, Barbara read this poem.

### Looking Back

I know where the largest rock on the island lies  
and how the warm sandy beach was formed.  
I know the smell of creek mud, black and soft  
and what part the waving thatch grass plays.  
I've dug for clams, scooped for scallops  
and caught eels by firelight.  
I cooked on the beach with seaweed and rock.  
I've cut the trees for firewood.  
split and piled them high  
I've raked the lawn each spring and fall.  
Sailed the boat when winds and tides  
played tricks with me.  
Swam on top of the sparkling bay.  
dove beneath in another world.  
Watched the Great Blue stalk its evening meal.  
Walked the pebbled beach on starry nights.  
I've built a home and moved a barn and strung a fence.  
Collected eggs and downed a steer each year.  
I banked the wood stove to last till dawn.  
Put out the cat that rules the house.  
Put down my well and drank with joy its water clean.  
Laid down the bricks, a path for friends to come and go.  
Each year planted a garden for food and delight,  
pulled apples, pears and peaches at summer's end.  
Kept the busy bees in hives and spun their golden honey.  
Smoked with apple wood the fish, the eels, the venison.  
Slid down the back hill and skated the pond.  
Seen the wonders of two boys and a girl  
and so it was a sense of place was found, and I a part of it.

## New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) Meeting Held in Ithaca in September

### Bob Adamo, Eastern Long Island Audubon representative to NYSOA.

The 67th annual dinner of the NYSOA was held in Ithaca at the Ramada Hotel on the weekend of September 19 through 21. This well attended and highly successful meeting was hosted by the Cayuga Bird Club (CBC) and offered many highlights, including a reception at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLOO).

Registration started at noon on Friday. For those arriving early, there were two field trips offered, one to Sapsucker Woods, the other to the Freese Road Community Gardens. I arrived too late to participate in either of these, but early enough to quickly register, and arrange for a ride to the reception that night at the CLOO (more on my means of transportation to, and from Ithaca later on).

The CBC orchestrated a wonderful night of activities, consisting of a program, a film, a behind-the-scenes tour of the employees' work area, "scrumptious" finger food, and a cash bar, featuring locally brewed beer. The program, "All about Bird Biology", was given by Mya Thompson, who is the originator of a new web source of the same name. It dealt with how closely a human vocalist can successfully imitate bird song, if he or she has the audio talent and musical background to capture and reconstruct the bird's vocalizations. The film, "Inside the Lab" gave insight into what is currently happening at The Lab, and to its possible future endeavors. The tour enabled us to get a feel for the employees' daily work duties, including a stop at the Macaulay Sound Library, where we learned of its ongoing efforts to digitize all of the old stored recordings. The hors d'oeuvres were delicious and plentiful. On the recommendation of Bill Schneider I tried a local brew called "Ithaca Apricot Wheat", and now, as the old Beach Boys song went...*I'm a believer!*

Saturday morning started with an early breakfast, to allow enough time for the delegates to get back from their field trip, and be on time for the start of the Business Meeting. I chose the trip to the Cornell Plantations, which produced some nice birds, namely four Coopers Hawks, a

Marsh Wren, and about 5-6 Bobolinks in their yellow, fall plumage.

Once roll call was completed, Kathy Schneider presented her "President's Report", which I have summarized, and in a few cases, added additional information.\*

1) Acknowledged again, the wonderful job the Queens County Bird Club did in hosting our 2013 Annual Meeting. Held in Uniondale, (the first meeting downstate in many years) it was attended by about 200 people, who certainly took advantage of the birding hot spots afforded by L.I. during the fall season.

2) Thanked our current host, the CBC, for their spirited effort in making this year's convention such a dynamic reality.

3) Described NYSOA's commitment to the New York State Young Birder's Club (NYSOA), a group that brings together kindred spirits, both young and old, in the hope of helping to develop our state's future birders and conservationists. Through monthly field trips, led by experienced birders, the young birders and trip leaders get to enjoy each other's company, while fostering knowledge of the avian world, and nature in general. \*The NYSYBC celebrated its 6th anniversary this year, and has grown to 42 Youth Members, 38 Adult Members, and 21 Partner Members, with ELIAS being part of this last group. The age requirement for the youth group is 10 to 19. At present, 50% are under 15, 29% are under 13, and 14% are over 16. There are also 3 members who are 10 years of age! 43% live in NYC, L.I., and Westchester County, while 19% live in N.J., Ct., and Ma. 34 boys and 8 girls make up the gender differential. In all aspects, this club has grown by leaps & bounds, from its 2008 start of 11 youth members, 13 adult members and 7 partner members.

4) \* NYSOA's membership, on the other hand, has dropped from 519 to 497 annual members, with life members also dropping from 48 to 45. The Club & Organizations category was the only group that experienced no drop, remaining at the same level of 42. \*The Audubon Society of the Capital Region was voted in as a member of NYSOA.

5) Remarked on NYSOA's organizational handbook, which, while still being developed, has already been helpful in accessing and issuing job responsibilities for our officers, board members and committees, along with associated procedural functions.

6) NYSOA's organizational records can now be accessed using an "online finding tool", in addition to now having "cloud based backups" for our membership, financial and website data.

7) In an effort to conserve resources and money, we now offer our newsletter "New York Birders" to our members electronically.

8) We sponsored 2 field trips this past year, upstate to the Bashkill Wildlife Management Area this summer, and downstate to various hot spots on L.I. this fall.

9) We also, annually, sponsor a state, regional and county listing competition for our members. In 2013, 112 participants submitted reports, with 13 of these folks sending in totals from all of NYS's 62 counties!

10) This past year, NYSOA voiced its opinions on the following issues: Support for the restoration of the West Pond at JBWR; opposed federal plans to allow 30 year "take" permits for Bald Eagles at wind farms; supported the listing of Red Knots on the federal Endangered Species List. We have also made known our concern for the state's Black Skimmer and Mute Swan plans, as well as on the wind farm proposal for Amherst Island.

11) Through our publications, "The Kingbird" and "New York Birders", and committees, such as both the Research and Avian Records Committees, we continue to strive for accurate documentation of ornithology in NYS.

12) She also announced the location, date and host of our 2015 Annual Meeting. It will take place in Albany, on October 2-4, hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Their President, Jory Langner, was then invited to say a few words about next year's meeting, and ended with a warm welcome to our state's capital in 2015!

13) Kathy finished up by mentioning NYSOA's needs for more individual memberships, and to start thinking about our next State Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

### NYSOA Officers

The election of NYSOA officers and new board members were as follows:

President	Kathy Schneider
Vice-President	Carena Pooth
Corresponding Secretary	Celeste Morien
Treasurer	Andy Mason
Board Member	Greg Lawrence term ending 2016
Board Member	Derek Rogers_ term ending 2016

Some of the statistics provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on 4 species of birds included information on 75 territorial pairs of Peregrine Falcons in NYS in 2013, a decrease of 2 from 2012. Breeding pairs dropped to 63, with 50 of them being successful, bringing off 125 young. In 2013, only 1 new pair of peregrines were found, but they accounted for 2 of that total. 2 Short-eared Owls in the Wallkill area were captured and fitted with tail-mount transmitters, in order to track their seasonal movements. A satellite transmitter was also deployed on a single Northern Harrier, to do the same. On L.I., 200 sites were surveyed for breeding terns, plovers, skimmers, gulls, and long-legged waders, with 344 pairs of Piping Plovers being monitored throughout the breeding season.

### The Paper & Poster Session

The Paper/Poster Session, moderated by Dr. Kevin McGowan, of the CLoO started after lunch. There were 13 presentations, 7 papers and 6 posters.

### The papers given were:

#### Risk-based Alarm Calling in Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*)

Shailee S. Shah, Cornell University, '14, Ithaca, NY, Sarah A. Mclean, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, U. of California, Berkeley, CA, Emma I Greig\_CloO, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY, David N. Bonter, CLoO, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY.

Studies have shown that the alarm calls of many vertebrate species have referential and risk-based variations to them. While

most of the studies involving birds have focused on passerine species, which are thought to have more complex vocalizations due to their higher developed syrinx focused on Herring Gulls. Sound recordings have shown that this harsh sounding, non-song bird species, does communicate threats in their alarm calls, using variations in their call types and call rates.

#### Let's Take a (Red) Poll: One, Two, or Three Species?

Nicholas A. Mason, PHD candidate, Scott A. Taylor, Postdoctoral Fellow, CLoO and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell U. Ithaca, NY

The redpoll finch complex (*Acanthis*) has always challenged taxonomists in identifying redpolls, as to species. New evidence seems to favor lumping all the types of Common Redpolls and all the types of Hoary Redpolls into one species.

#### The Hidden World of Bird Language: A Study of Interspecies Communication and Social Communities in Common Feeder Birds of the Northeast.

Truth Muller, Student, age 14, 9th grade, The NYSYBC and Sullivan County AS.

#### Earlier Spring Arrival Dates of Migrating Birds Verified in New York and Massachusetts.

Steven Houck, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, Donald Ca. McCrimmon, McDivett Center, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY.

#### Effect on Climate on the Spatio-temporal Distribution of Irruptive Bird Species

Max Pine, Pelham Memorial High School, Pelham, NY, Walt Koenig and Andrew Farnsworth, CLoO, Ithaca, NY,

#### Connecting Habitats and Hemispheres: Non-stop Migratory Flights in Whimbrels

Andrew Johnson, Cornell '14, Ithaca, NY, Johanna Prez and Erica Nol, Trent U, Peterborough, Ontario, Nathan Senner, Groningen U., Groningen, Netherlands, Irby Lovette and Benjamin Van Doren Cornell '14, CLoO, Ithaca, NY

#### Piping Plover Recovery in NYS

Kerri Dikun, Audubon NY, Oyster Bay, Jillian Liner, Audubon NY, Ithaca, NY

### The posters explained were:

#### 1) Factors Affecting the Reproductive Success of Herring Gulls (*Larus argen-*

*tatus*) on Appledore Island, Maine Taylor Heaton Crisologo '15, Dept of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell, Ithaca, NY, David Bonter, CLoO, Ithaca, NY

2) Individual Acoustic Distinctiveness in the female American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) Nest Call and the Factors that Influence their Differences Leah Nettle, Anne B. Clark, PhD student, Binghamton U., Kevin McGowan and Sarah Keen, CLoO, Ithaca, NY.

3) Effects of Bioenergy Cropping on Grassland Bird Habitat, Richness, & Diversity: A Literature Review Anna L. Schatz\_MS/PhD, Cornell U., Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Ithaca, NY

4) A Rangewide Approach to Stabilizing and Increasing Golden-winged Warbler Populations Rohrbaugh, R.W., et al, CLoO, Cornell U., Ithaca, N.Y.

5) Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Monitoring by Citizen Scientists Informs Habitat Restoration and Management within the Montezuma Wetlands Complex

Linda C. Ziembra, USFW/Montezuma NWR, Jim Eckler, NYSDEC/N. Montezuma, Scott Stipetich, Wildlife Management Area, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

6) The Early Bird Gets the Worm – and its Parasite: Investigating Endoparasitism in Herring Gull Chicks

Sara Gonzalez '15, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY

The Banquet Dinner on Saturday evening was a lively affair that combined good food, a very rewarding "silent auction", the presentation of awards and certificates of appreciation, as well as finishing with a "dynamite" guest speaker!

The Lillian C. Stoner given to a student to help defray the cost of attending the current annual meeting, was awarded this year to Marc Katz, a high school senior from NYC. Marc was nominated by the Linnaean Society of New York, and also by the NYSYBC. A year's free membership in NYSOA accompanies this selection.

*continued*

The John J. Elliot Award is presented annually to the author of the article which is judged to be the best submitted to "The Kingbird" for publication. This year's winner was Kyle Wright, for his "Timing of the spring passage of dark Red-tailed Hawks past Derby Hill Bird Observatory".

The Presidents Award was given to Barbara Butler for her past service to NYSOA, including 6 years as a member of the Board of Directors, and 6 years as Circulation Manager.

The Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Medal (which is not awarded every year) was presented to Andy Mason in honor of his many contributions and leadership to NYSOA. Though this longtime association, Andy has worn many hats, with stints as our President, Vice-President, and Director, as well as both Treasurer, and Conservation Committee-Chair, positions he still holds.

Certificates of Appreciation are given by NYSOA to people and/or organizations who, through their hosting or accomplishments, help to foster birding in our state.

Four were awarded this year:

**To Tom and Wendy Weaver** for being a very helpful host to the many birders who traveled (some from great distances) to look for the Willow Ptarmigan found at the Point Peninsular Bird Conservation Area in Jefferson County, way up in the northeastern part of N.Y.

**To Cyndy and Richard Tkachuck** for making the "New York Birders" publication available in electronic form, while designing, editing, and publishing it for the past 2 years.

**To members of the board of the Town of Lansing** for their commitment to birds, other wildlife, and birders of NYS in creating a natural area and bird habitat at Salt Point, Town of Lansing.

**To the Cayuga Bird Club** for organizing and hosting the 2014 NYSOA Annual Meeting, which, as with all the meetings that preceded it, was a huge undertaking... *a job well done!*

The Keynote Speaker this year was Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science & Engineering, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Dr.

Stutchbury is also an author who has written numerous scientific papers, in addition to many books geared to general audiences, such as "Silence of the Songbirds", "Bird Detective", and the recent "The Private Lives of Birds: A Scientist Reveals the Intricacies of Avian Social Life".

Her talk entitled "Frequent Fliers: New Discoveries in Bird Migration" deals with songbird migration patterns, and its implications for bird conservation in the face of global climate change. Using tiny geolocators, harnessed on the backs of individual Wood Thrushes and Purple Martins. Dr. Stutchbury and her research team have been able to track these songbirds' entire round-trip migratory journeys for the first time, with fascinating and surprising results.

These geolocators work by recording light-levels from the sun every few minutes, 24 hours a day. The bird is recaptured after it returns to its breeding ground and data from the geocator is downloaded. Using sunrise/sunset times the scientists calculate longitude and latitude, telling them where the bird was at any particular time during its migration. The resulting information about songbird migration patterns, especially the seasonal timing of migration, is extremely important to the species' future well being. This presentation provided an insight to the advances being made in ornithology, and to the benefit one derives from listening to a knowledgeable and delightful speaker.

#### Author's Note

This year I decided to go to the annual meeting by bus. This trip started in Patchogue the bus made 10 stops in Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, and Westchester before taking off for Monticello, where I had to make the first of two bus changes (the other being Binghamton) before arriving in Ithaca about 4 pm. At Monticello, after spending a few minutes inside the terminal, I returned outside to find my suitcase standing alone, next to a loaded bus ready to depart for Binghamton... *without me!* The driver was standing outside with his clipboard when I approached him. He told me the bus was full, and I would have to wait two hours for the next bus. After explaining I was the very first passenger on

the bus when it started from Patchogue, what he just said to me was unacceptable. He then referred the matter to his manager. She arrived with an apology and a proposal. Admitting they had overbooked, she offered me a refund for the remaining ride to Ithaca, if I waited for the next bus. I again said this was unacceptable. With that she boarded the bus and offered the same inducement to anyone willing to wait for the next bus, but had no volunteers! Asking me to wait, she went back inside the terminal, as I watched "my" bus leave.

In less than 5 minutes she returned with a bus driver at her side. She then introduced me to Walter, who was going to take me straight to Ithaca (bypassing Binghamton completely) which of course changed my attitude 180 degrees! After thanking her profusely, I started to follow Walter as he headed for the only bus still on the line. When he got on that bus, and started it up, it finally dawned on me and blew me away! The last leg of my journey was delightful, filled with 2 hours of enjoyable and informative conversation with a very happy bus driver! Walter had just finished his regular work day, and was all set to leave for home, when the manager asked if he would like to make some overtime?

Walter jumped at the offer, telling me it would increase his week's pay by about \$250, more than sufficient for driving his full size tour bus back to Monticello alone. Yes, that is right, I was the only passenger on one of those mechanical behemoths! Whenever I think of this course of events (I thought Walter was going to take me up in a smaller bus or van), I have a good chuckle, in addition to remembering something told to me many years ago... "don't fret, stay calm and roll with the punches". The ride back home, because of less stops, took less time... however, I hope that this episode will turn out to be my first, and last, long bus ride! ■

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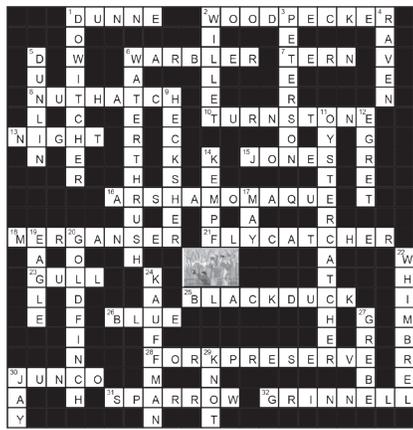
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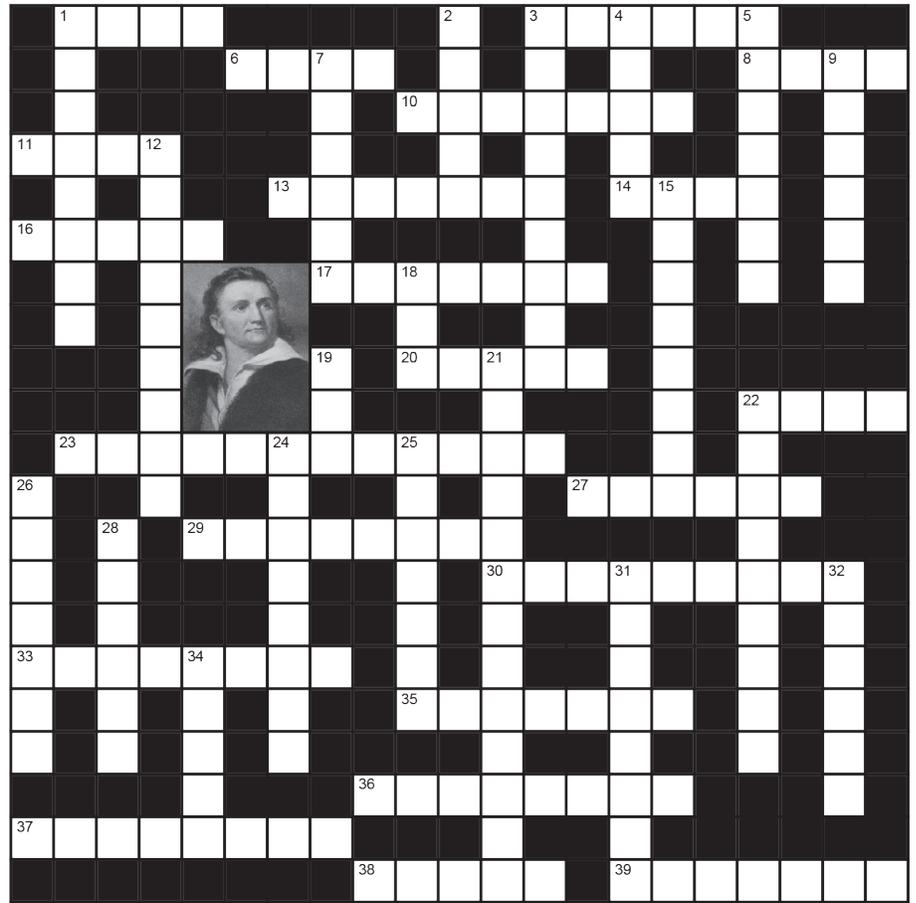
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### Answers to last issue's puzzle Fall Birding by Tom Moran



## Sports Teams Tom Moran



### Across

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Warbler
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Goose
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Goose, White or Blue morph
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Dove, aka Domestic or Feral Pigeon
- 10 Common Duck
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Hawk, aka Osprey
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ Seahawks, football team
- 14 Camp \_\_\_\_\_, location near Montauk Pt.
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ Woodpecker, the hippie type?
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Jays, baseball team
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Woodpecker
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Parakeet, uses stick nests in colonies
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ Eagles, football team
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ Swan, at Hook Pond in March this year
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ Goose, originally thought to be a growth from wood in the water, hence the name.
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_ Swan, a pair could be seen at Upper Yaphank Lake through 2013
- 33 Toronto baseball team, 2 words
- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ Hawk, rounded tail, blackish crown
- 36 Paddling down the Carmans River is a novel way to bird this NWR, ELIAS had a nice display at the new visitor's center opening
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ State Park, on the south shore, puddles near the parking lots are good places to pick up sandpipers
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ Duck or Turnstone
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ Yellowlegs, *whew, whew, whew*

### Down

- 1 White or Brown \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Mostly black-necked goose
- 3 Where EPCAL is located
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Fork Preserve
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Cardinals, football team, relocated from St. Louis
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Point, from here, you can look longingly at the possibility of birding at Plum Island
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Loon/Tern/Grackle/Merganser...
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Duck, aka lords and ladies?!, painted duck, totem pole duck, rock duck, glacier duck, mountain duck or white-eyed diver
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Wigeon, check out West Sayville Golf Course this winter
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ - head, not to be confused with a Canvas-back
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Blvd., Patchogue, nice views of the lake, but where are the fish eggs?
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Sparrow, which do you hear: *oh, Canada, Canada, Canada or Old Sam Peabody, Peabody*
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Lake, Mattituck, Barnacle Goose was seen here in Nov 2012
- 24 Slate-colored Junco, aka, 2 words
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ Loon, a rarity seen in Harts Cove
- 26 John James \_\_\_\_\_
- 28 Theodore Roosevelt \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve, was it a Northern or Loggerhead Shrike in Nov 2010!?
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Dove, MoDo
- 32 Baltimore in football (the Common ones have nested on the Hampton Bays Water Tower)
- 34 The west end of \_\_\_\_\_ Beach, and the Coast Guard Station are good places to bird

Hello Mutter, Hello Fatta,

We heard from two of last year's campers and are happy to report they both had a great time. The camper who went to camp DeBruce felt her life had been changed, the camp must have felt the same way, they invited her back as a volunteer. She went on to say, "I always think about the memories and people at camp, but sometimes I am just so engrossed in the memories, I forget I would have never gone if it wasn't for you. Thank you for the amazing opportunity."

Our other camper went to Pack Forest. He too, feels these camps have changed his outlook. "I now believe that camp significantly influence way I view the environment. I believe that one of my paths as a career is leading towards becoming an environmentalist. I want to learn how to conserve but also create new ways we could conserve and reduce the resources we waste by reducing the harmful material that we pollute the earth with. This has now become one of goals in life and I am grateful that you gave it to me. Thank you so much."

Thanks campers!

*ELIAS would be so happy to find we started future environmentalists on their way!*

## 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](http://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, 2015 to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

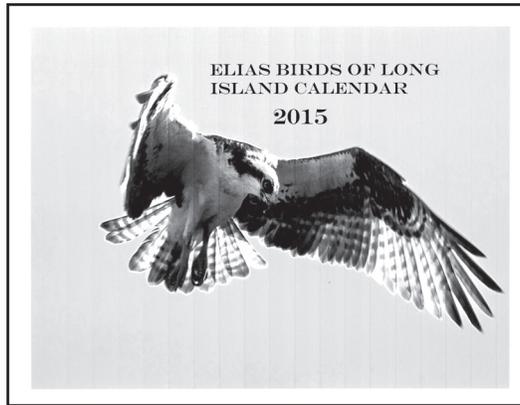
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Order Your ELIAS Calendar

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