



The **OSPREY**

January/February, 2007 – Vol. XXXVII No. 1

Nature Programs

Bob Adamo

Join us for nature programs and membership meetings at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Everyone is welcome. (Directions are on our website.)

Monday, February 5

7:15 PM – Nature chat

7:30 PM – Chapter news

8:00 PM – Speaker Tim Baird

A YEAR WITH NATURE IN WESTERN NEW YORK

Tim Baird from Salamanca NY is Past President of the NYS Ornithological Association (formerly known as the Federation of NY State Bird Clubs) and is currently editor of its quarterly newsletter, *New York Birders*.

His slide/music presentation will be novel to us for several reasons. First, the audience will be encouraged to discuss the slides among themselves while the un-narrated program is in progress. Second, when it is finished, Tim will gladly show again and discuss any slides which are of further interest to the audience. Lastly, western New York State is an area many of our members do not know well.



Reminder: There is no January program.

Bluebird Restoration Project

Maybe Next Year



Gigi Spates and Evelyn Voulgarelis

ELIAS maintains seven bluebird nest box trails. Some of these have been in existence for eleven years. This is our effort to reverse the decline of our beautiful State bird here on eastern Long Island.

Evelyn and Gigi monitor the trail at Indian Island Golf Club in Riverhead. On November 9th, they were wintering the sixteen bluebird nest boxes scattered around that site and grousing about their disappointment that no bluebirds had used the boxes this past nesting season. In fact, they had never seen bluebirds at all in the five years they had been monitoring the trail. Why were they doing this?

Then Gigi spotted some avian activity in and under some young trees. She thought she saw blue – too small for blue jays. Evelyn spotted red breasts – too small for robins – and white bellies. HURRAH! For long pleasurable minutes, they looked at a flock of six bluebirds perching in the sunlight, flitting from one leafless tree to another and feeding on the ground.

So Eastern Bluebirds do come around this expansive golf course. Maybe next spring, a few will decide to nest here too.

What's happening on the other trails?

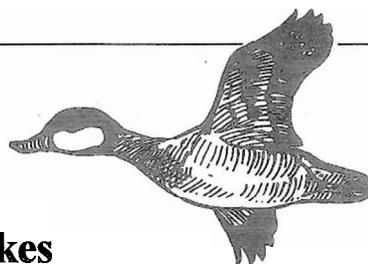
The seven bluebird trails that ELIAS maintains and monitors in various east end locations have a total of 88 boxes designed and situated to attract bluebirds.

Only 3 trails this year have had bluebirds for a total of about 12 fledglings. Nest boxes not used by bluebirds are well received by tree swallows and to a lesser degree by house wrens.

Volunteer opportunities

If you think you might be interested in monitoring one of the trails in the Riverhead area about once a week from the end of March through July, contact Gigi Spates, the coordinator of this project, at 765-1436 or Evelyn Voulgarelis at 727-0417

Field Trip



Wintering Waterfowl on Patchogue Lakes Saturday, February 3

This half day trip will explore the lakes around Patchogue, where we hope to see ring neck ducks, American widgeon, lesser scaup, and ruddy ducks to name a few. We will also be looking for Eurasian widgeon, a regular visitor to the lakes, and if we're lucky, a tufted duck.

We will meet at 9 AM at the Swan Lake Lodge on Lake Avenue in East Patchogue. If you are driving west on Montauk highway, make a left turn just before the Robo

carwash at the traffic light. If you are driving from the east, make a right turn at the light just after Robo carwash. Proceed to the Swan Lake Lodge on your left and park.

Please join us. Your trip leader will be John McNeil, who is also our Membership Chairman. If you plan to attend, please call him at (631) 281-2623.

Reports from the Field

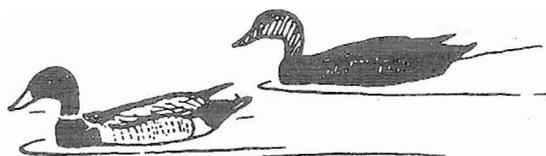


November Field Trip to Easthampton/Westhampton – Bob Murray

The November 4th field trip had 16 participants on a beautiful day. Our trip took us from Kalers Pond in Center Moriches to the Speonk River in Westhampton. This was a good trip for novice birders, and we were all thankful for help from Mike Higgiston and Al Scherzer with their scopes. They were also helpful in identifying various species.

A high point of the trip was seeing two juvenile osprey up close as well as two kingfishers on Little Seatuck Creek. The Eastport Pond had a good variety of ruddy ducks, American widgeon, ring neck ducks, coots, and gadwalls.

We were pleased to have participants from the north fork as well as local birders. The article in Suffolk Life helped spread the word. We even had a young birder from Massachusetts – my grandson.



Wilson's Storm-Petrel – Joe Siphron

On Saturday, September 2, 2006 at about 9 AM, while doing my "road exercise" crossing the Quogue bridge just north of Dune Road, I noticed a feeding frenzy of gulls close to the west side of the bridge. So I stopped and looking down, saw a much smaller dark bird flying among the gulls.

What caught my eye was the small birds' stiff, shallow wingbeats. Wilson's storm-petrel! Only hours before, storm Ernesto had passed through going northwest and presumably bringing to shore this Antarctic pelagic bird. I also saw its light rump.

I had seen a few Wilson's storm-petrels long ago at Cox's Ledge, while in the company of the likes of Roy Wilcox and Gil Raynor. And in January 1977, my wife and son and I had the privilege of being on the (old) Lindblad Explorer in the Antarctic breeding area of the Wilson's storm-petrel. My notes indicate that we identified over 100 Wilson's storm-petrels. By delightful coincidence, Dennis Puleston was aboard our ship, leading another group.

The late John Bull says that, in our area, Wilson's storm-petrel is "very infrequent in September," and a September 29, 1933 Orient sighting by (you guessed it) Roy Latham was "very late," according to Bull.

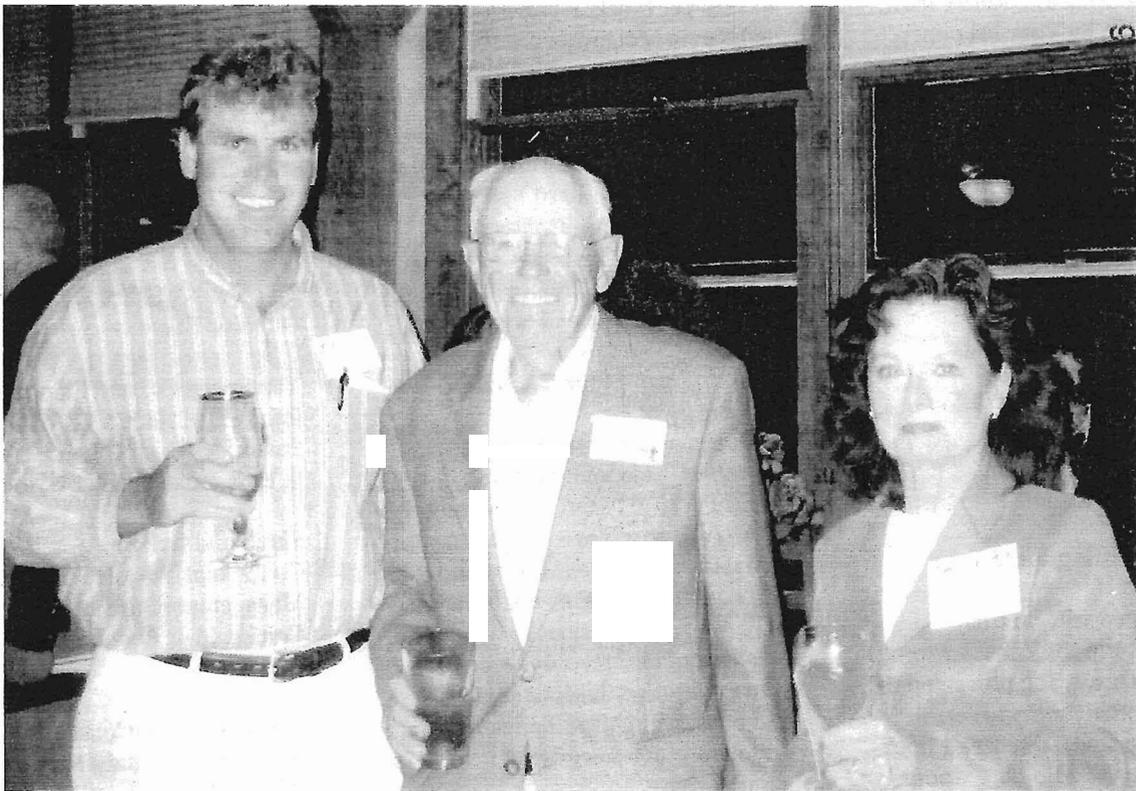
Another Successful Benefit Dinner

Our sixth annual dinner was held in October at Indian Cove Restaurant in Hampton Bays. As always, the most special thing about this event was the opportunity to enjoy the company of so many of our members. More of us gather together at the dinner than on any other occasion, and the result is delightful.

We were pleased to have Peconic Baykeeper Kevin McAllister as our speaker. Kevin presented a report on the health of Peconic and south shore bays, along with a call to action to restore our waters.

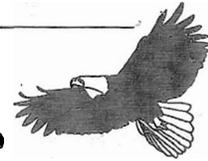
This year's Annual Osprey Award for outstanding volunteer service was given to former Vice President, Gigi Spates, who has filled many roles over the years including newsletter editor and feeder survey coordinator. Last year, she spearheaded the effort to protect horseshoe crabs on Dune Road. These days, among other things, she is our Conservation Chairman, and she coordinates the Bluebird Restoration Project. With help from Beth Gustin, she also organized the annual seed sale.

Thanks to the Dinner Committee and everyone else who helped to make the evening a success. Special thanks to Sue Little for the photographs.



(L to R) Speaker Kevin McAllister, Andy Murphy (former board member), and Peg Caraher (Past President)

New York State Ornithological Association Annual Meeting September 29 – October 1, Oneonta - Reported by Bob Adamo



The meeting was hosted by the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society on the campus of SUNY Oneonta.

On arrival we were given T shirts emblazoned with the logo for the Delaware-Otsego's hawkwatch, along with the bird for which it is renowned, the golden eagle. This hawkwatch has been counting birds for seventeen consecutive years, and in 2005 set eastern North American records for golden eagles with a daily high of 71 and a seasonal total of 252 birds. We didn't see any goldens while we were there – they normally come through late in the fall – but we did see a few of the other eagle species.

After dinner on Friday evening, Jeff Nadler gave a powerpoint presentation on the natural wonders of the Adirondacks. Two workshops followed, one on bird sounds given by Don Kroodsma and Russ Charif, the other given by Tom Salo on raptor identification. I chose the latter and found that I was able to use some of this information the very next day at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch.

Bald Eagle



Saturday Morning Field Trips

Saturday started with an early delegate field trip to Wilbur Lake. Although the heavy fog prevented us from seeing out over the water, we did manage to find a few small flocks of migrants in the adjoining woods, which picked us right up. The total for our abbreviated outing was ten species with the highlight being a raven in flight carrying a small

rodent. For non-delegates, there were longer field trips to Greenwoods Conservancy, Weaver Lake and Otsego "hot spots," and Pine Lake. In the afternoon, there was a non-delegate field trip to Cooperstown.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was at 8:45 AM and lasted most of the morning. NYSOA now has 629 individual members and 48 member clubs. The governance proposal that would have given voting rights to individual members was tabled indefinitely, mostly because of a lack of interest on both sides of the issue.

We learned that the field work and reviews for NY State's Second Breeding Bird Atlas are now complete. A total of 1,195 volunteers and "blockbusters" covered all 5,335 blocks, with an overall average of 72 species per block. Kimberley Corwin and Kevin McGowan are co-editors of the publication, which should arrive in spring 2008.

Wind energy towers were discussed, and Dr. John Confer of Ithaca College, NYSOA's Conservation Committee Co-Chairman, was appointed to head a sub-committee to investigate the issue of wind power.

NYeBird, part of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's continent-wide ebird project, was explained. This joint venture launched by NYSOA and Audubon New York provides a simple way for birders to record their observations, while at the same time contributing important contributions to a growing database of bird records, which can be used by other birders, scientists, and conservationists. To learn more, go to www.ebird.org/NY.

The same slate of officers headed by Andy Mason that guided us this past year was re-elected and will lead us until the 2007 annual meeting, which

will be held on the weekend of October 5 – 7 in Batavia, hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society. The 2008 annual meeting is also set, with the Rochester Birding Association as host, in Rochester on the weekend of September 19 – 21.



Red-shouldered Hawk

Saturday Afternoon Field Trip

Saturday's lunch was unique. After receiving box lunches, both delegates and non-delegates car pooled up to the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch, where we had a spectacular view of Oneonta and beyond. The weather cooperated and so did the birds. We had 2 or 3 bald eagles, an assortment of sharp-shinned, Cooper's and red-tailed hawks, and a number of smaller birds.

Presentations

The Status of Greenland Geese.
Donimic Sharony

The Energetics and Stopover Ecology of Neotropical Migrant Passerines in an Urban Park. Chad Seerwagen and Eric Slayton.

Shrubland Habitat Restoration in Contiguous Forest: Win-Win Management for Biodiversity. John Confer, Matt Podolsky, and Juliana Quant.

A Standard Pre-Construction Avian-Wildlife Risk Study Must be Required for Industrial Wind Turbine Projects in NY State. Leonard DeFrancisco.

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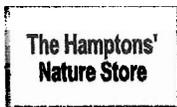
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Our readers are a target audience for nature-friendly businesses. For rates, contact newsletter editor Shirley Morrison at 631-208-3894 or shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us

TOWN PERSPECTIVES



The Majesty of Shinnecock Hills

Marty Shea, Chief Environmental Analyst
Town of Southampton



One of the more unique, yet still largely unappreciated natural areas of the Hamptons, is the grandiose ridge of glacial knolls and kettles known as Shinnecock Hills. While few venture away from the maze of roads and homes, there remain yet in its hinterlands, a few very small yet magical haunts, where some of the finest dramas of wild flora and fauna can still be seen.

Especially captivating are the hollows, piney slopes and tangles, often just a stone's throw from residences, where patches of stunning lady's slippers, sky-blue lupine, lush wavy Pennsylvania sedges, and delicate hair grasses abound. Equally enthralling are the quiet higher recesses, where the great blue heron roost in the lofty canopies of pitch pine stands looking out toward the bays.

Glacial ice, fire, and sea spray gave us these natural wonders, a unique palette of undulating kame and kettle topography, graced by maritime grassland, heathland, shrubland and successional woods. These diverse rare ecological communities offer dramatic color, form, and majesty simply not found elsewhere on the east end. It was this grandeur and open barrenness, which touched and inspired the first Southampton Art School of Impressionism in Shinnecock Hills in 1891, portrayed so finely in the famed landscape paintings of William Merritt Chase.

The open sweeps of maritime hair grasses, broom sedge, and asters amid the greens, fairways, and clubhouse of the Shinnecock Hills Golf Course still evoke the quieter pastoral times and grand openness portrayed in Chase's world famous 1895 painting, "The Bayberry Bush." The unspoken richness of the Hills can also be found in the patches of blooming wild Virginia roses and the elegant white creamy flowers of elderberry each spring, and in the pine hollows where red fox and deer abound, amid tangles of jungle-like greenbriar and heath thickets of blueberry, and huckleberry.

The scent of bayberry and the sea will lure you to the coastline, where breathtaking views of Cold Spring Pond, the great Shinnecock Bay, and the pristine pine and oak shores of the Shinnecock Reservation can be enjoyed. Equally enchanting is the surreal natural beauty of the white sandy bluffs along the Peconic, where the winter

magical echoes of old-squaw can be heard in the fall and winter months.

Take a short ride, kayak, or walk into Shinnecock Hills country and savor the truly unique flavors of this region, for this relic of Southampton's once wilder past is, unfortunately, being forever lost, more and more each day. And do all you can to support land preservation efforts in the region, so that some of the most beautiful wild places left on Long Island will forever be secured.

A Conservation Success Story

Lisa D'Andrea, Assistant Natural Resources
Director, Town of East Hampton



I consider it a great privilege to manage Cartwright Shoals breeding bird colony for the Town of East Hampton. Cartwright Shoals (including Cartwright Island) is a collection of straight line north-south oriented sand bars extending from the southernmost terminus of Gardiners Island located in Gardiners Bay of the Peconic Estuary.

In 2005 the Goellets, who own the island in trust, gave the Town of East Hampton a "conservation easement" protecting the bulk of the island from any development for twenty years. The program of protection and management of this island undertaken by the department in 2005 is a carryover from past years of management under the auspices of Helen Hayes and the American Museum of Natural History. It is exciting for me because *it is the only place in all of East Hampton that has breeding NYS threatened common terns, NYS and federally endangered roseate terns, and black skimmers (NYS species of special concern)*. It also has NYS endangered and federally threatened piping plovers, American oystercatchers, and horned larks (NYS species of special concern) that breed on it. Sometimes NYS threatened least terns will attempt to breed there. Cartwright Shoals really is a treasure.

In the past, I managed the piping plover and least tern protection program for East Hampton. While I found that fulfilling in many respects, I also found it incredibly stressful, mainly because it required management of public beaches. I had to worry constantly about vandalism of the fencing, beach drivers, pedestrians, dogs, joggers, kite flyers, and wind surfers, not to mention a myriad of natural predators. As mentioned above, Cartwright is part of the privately owned Gardiners Island to which the public is not allowed access. Before the department started managing Cartwright, boaters would land on the shoals with impunity, particularly on July 4th weekend at the peak of

the tern breeding season. Occasionally a boater or kayaker will still land on the shoal, but for the most part it is now undisturbed by humans. Oh yes, I find that extremely refreshing!

A season to remember

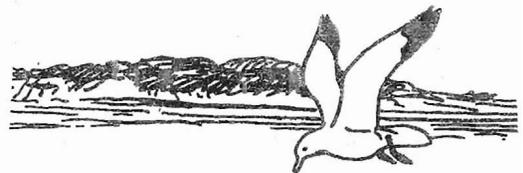
When I went with colleagues in early April to begin preparing the shoal for the birds' arrival, the shoal looked like a desolate windswept island. I could see that winter storm waves had overwashed the shoal. The only sign of vegetation was a few clumps of brown beach grass. But I got to play house. I had a variety of manmade shelters to position on the shoal to make it more attractive to the terns. Roseate terns prefer a little more cover and vegetation than do the common terns. So in the area that the roseate terns seemed to prefer we positioned these shelters. This year were going to see if the terns liked large, discarded truck tires as shelters. The tires required a bit of work – we had to dig them partially into the sand. As we were doing this work, we observed that a pair of piping plovers was already setting up its territory, and two pairs of oystercatchers were also setting up shop. The season had begun! In a few days, we returned to string fence the perimeter of the shoal and post signage as an additional reminder to boaters and kayakers that this was a breeding bird area and was off limits.

By the first week of May, the common and roseate terns started settling in on the shoal. By the third week in May, there were 500 or more terns. By early June, there was a dramatic increase in the number of terns. There were several thousand on the shoal. They were coming and going, courting, copulating, sitting on nests, and rising in unison when there was a perceived disturbance. It was a circus of activity and a joy to watch. The black skimmers, about 40 pairs, had also arrived to start nesting. I tried to observe them from the greatest distance possible so as not to disturb them. (They are such unusual birds. I can't imagine that they can actually earn their living skimming the water with their bills to catch prey. But they do.) Black-backed gulls and herring gulls loitered on the northern and southern tips of the shoal. Every now and again, one would fly into the colony to try to pilfer an egg or a chick. The terns responded aggressively, rising in great numbers to attack the gull. Sometimes the gull got lucky, but most of the time the terns succeeded in harassing it out of the colony before it could prey on a nest. Most gulls do not earn their living off tern colonies, but there are some that do. And they teach their young to do the same. We had to make sure that the number of gulls that prey exclusively on the terns did not reach a level that would threaten the success of the colony.

On one of my trips to the shoal, while I was busily observing the bird activity through my binoculars, my husband, Paul, who works for the local chapter of the

Nature Conservancy, exclaimed that something strange was bobbing in the water. He circled the boat closer, and we saw that it was a newly hatched common tern chick. We scooped it up with a net. The poor little fuzz ball was alert and active. I envisioned a gull with the chick in its bill and another greedy gull wanting that chick. Well, neither gull had a meal with that little chick. We got it to the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons, where it was successfully reared and eventually released back to the natural environment. It's nice to have such a happy ending.

As the season progressed, the vegetation grew lush and green on the shoal with all the nutrients from the tern droppings. The plants provided shade and protective cover for the chicks. In July, I began to see chicks running around up in the nesting area. Many of them hid in the vegetation and were not easily seen or counted. Toward the end of July, the first chicks to fledge came down to the water's edge and loafed along with the adults. If it was a nice day and not too windy, you could watch terns bathe in the water and preen themselves. By mid August the tern colony had begun to wind down. The terns, adults and fledges, gathered along the water's edge. Juveniles from Great Gull Island started mixing in with the Cartwright terns, and I presume vice versa. The black skimmers were the last to establish nests and were the last to finish up on the shoal. In early September, adult terns still lined the beach, but most of the fledges had gone. It would soon be time to take the fencing down and remove the manmade shelters.



Efforts rewarded

In 2005 and 2006, about 1,500 pairs of common terns, 80 pairs of roseate terns, 40 pairs of black skimmers, 2 pairs of piping plovers, and 2 pairs of American oystercatchers nested on Cartwright Shoals. In 2005, approximately 65 pairs of least terns attempted to nest on Cartwright but failed because of Herring gull predation. They did not attempt to colonize on Cartwright in 2006. The shoals and, in particular, the island are one of the few great success stories in New York State with respect to attempts to recover rare species of colonial waterbirds. Prior to 1992, only a handful of terns nested there. In 1996, 1998 and 1999 no roseate terns, the most endangered of them all, nested there. *Now it is the second largest roseate tern producer in the State, second only to Great Gull Island.* Barring a severe overtopping like the ones that occurred during Hurricane Bob and the Halloween storm of 1991, 2007 promises to be just as successful as 2006.

NYSOA continued from page 4

Avian Vagrancy to Fire Island: History, Highlights, and Biological Significance. Shaibal Mitra.

Whip-Poor-Will Monitoring in NY State. Matthew Medler.

Many Annual Meetings of Poetry. Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.

All of the above were interesting, thought provoking, and filled with information that helps one better understand complex issues. Max's words, with all their tradition, were all of the above and more:

Under hat of Whitman
he read, he shouted
Such a diverse platter
he offered, with or
without hanging spectacles
he grabbed us, held us
and then made us fly
This Long Island Man
Of Words and Mirth
Under hat of Whitman

Bob Adamo, 11/1/06

Saturday Banquet and Speaker

Several awards and certificates of appreciation were handed out. The NYC Empire State Building's management team was commended for reducing lighting during peak migration times, thereby helping to alleviate possible bird kills.

Three families in Wyoming County were recognized for their hospitality to birders seeking a northern hawk owl this past winter. Long Island's Pat Lindsay was given the John Elliott Award for writing the best article in *The Kingbird* this year. Kevin Griffith was given special recognition for his work as Region 2 Editor of *The Kingbird*. The Lillian Stone Award, given to an outstanding high school or college student nominated by a bird club was shared by three students: Jackson Mesick nominated by the Audubon Society of the Capital District, Matt Podolosky nominated by the Cayuga

Bird Club, and Brian Glidden nominated by High Peaks Audubon.

The guest speaker was Dr. Kroodsmma, author of *The Singing Life of Birds*. Using vocal recordings and sonograms, he illustrated how we can better understand and identify birds through vocalizations.

Sunday Field Trips on the Way Home

On Sunday morning, four field trips were offered, one in each of the four directions participants were taking home. I passed on this and headed out.

An added bonus to this wonderful weekend was the changing colors of fall, which were quite evident, even though it was two weeks before their normal peak time.



Raven

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NY STATE AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

October 27 – 29, Saranac Lake, NY

Shirley Morrison

Evelyn Voulgarelis and I represented the chapter this year. It was a thrill to spend an autumn weekend in the Adirondacks with a congenial group of kindred spirits.

FIELD TRIPS: On Saturday field trips to Bloomingdale Bog and Oregon Plains Road, some participants were lucky enough to see gray jays, boreal chickadees, a blue-headed vireo, and a raven.

PRESENTATIONS: The presentations were outstanding. Topics ranged from the glacial history of the Champlain Valley and the impact of climate change in the Adirondacks to research on threats to the survival of loons, spruce grouse, and Bicknell's thrush.

Adirondack All-Taxa Biological Inventory: One of the presentations outlined a plan to survey all the plants and animals in the six million acre Adirondack Park. A similar effort in Great Smoky Mountain National Park identified **more than 3,300 species new to the region and 542 species new to science**. The Adirondack Park is twelve times the size of the Smokies national park, so the possibilities are exciting.

The study will cover everything from bacteria and fungi to amphibians and mammals. Scientists will enlist the help of amateur naturalists. They will work toward a better understanding of the ecosystem and species interaction with the ultimate goal of helping biodiversity to prosper.

The project is sponsored by the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College in cooperation with many other organizations including Audubon New York.

For more information, contact Craig Milewski, Paul Smith's College, milewsc@paulsmiths.edu.

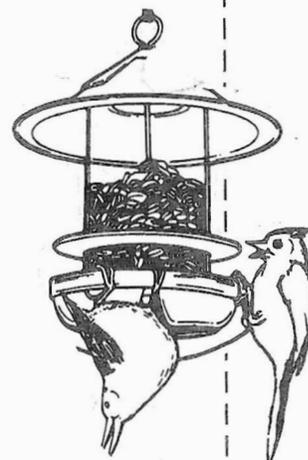


FEEDER SURVEY REPORT FORMS

Mail **immediately** after each survey period to: Marybeth Stembler, 11 Pinedale Rd., Hauppauge NY 11788, or to send via the internet, go to: www.easternlongislandaudubonsociety.org and 1) Click on *Chapter Projects*; 2) Click on *Feeder Statistics*; 3) Click on *To submit via the Internet, etc.*

Survey Dates : March 4 - 11, 2007 Name _____ Address _____ Town _____ Phone _____ <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 10%;"><u>NO.</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>SPECIES</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Mourning Dove</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Northern Cardinal</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Blue Jay</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>House Finch</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Black-capped Chickadee</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Tufted Titmouse</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Downy Woodpecker</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>White-throated Sparrow</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Dark-eyed Junco</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>House Sparrow</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>White-breasted Nuthatch</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Song Sparrow</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Red-bellied Woodpecker</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>American Crow</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>European Starling</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Common Grackle</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Carolina Wren</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Northern Mockingbird</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>American Goldfinch</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Red-winged Blackbird</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Hairy Woodpecker</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Common Flicker</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Rufous-sided Towhee</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>American Robin</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Brown-headed Cowbird</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Rock Dove</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Gray Catbird</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Yellow-rumped Warbler</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>Red-breasted Nuthatch</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	_____	Mourning Dove	_____	Northern Cardinal	_____	Blue Jay	_____	House Finch	_____	Black-capped Chickadee	_____	Tufted Titmouse	_____	Downy Woodpecker	_____	White-throated Sparrow	_____	Dark-eyed Junco	_____	House Sparrow	_____	White-breasted Nuthatch	_____	Song Sparrow	_____	Red-bellied Woodpecker	_____	American Crow	_____	European Starling	_____	Common Grackle	_____	Carolina Wren	_____	Northern Mockingbird	_____	American Goldfinch	_____	Red-winged Blackbird	_____	Hairy Woodpecker	_____	Common Flicker	_____	Rufous-sided Towhee	_____	American Robin	_____	Brown-headed Cowbird	_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk	_____	Rock Dove	_____	Gray Catbird	_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler	_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____		_____		_____		Survey Dates : February 4 - 11, 2007 Name _____ Address _____ Town _____ Phone _____ <table style="width: 100%; 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PLEASE JOIN US. We would welcome your help in the monitoring the birds in our area.

- Record the highest number of species you see in your count area at any one time.
- Don't include birds seen off premises or just flying through your area.
- Don't add counts from previous sightings together.
- Estimate the number of birds if there is a large number. Everyone has a different idea of the size of a "flock."
- Be specific with the species, e.g., don't use sparrow,

- blackbird, or gull, etc. We need to know what kind.
- Send in surveys even if you only saw common birds. It is just as important to record the usual species as it the unusual birds.
- Don't worry if you miss a survey because of other commitments, or if you can only watch before work, on weekends, etc. Your participation will still enlarge our database.

Summary data and trends are published in the newsletter when space permits. They can always be found on the website.

FEEDER SURVEY RESULTS

SPECIES	<u>OCTOBER 2006</u>		<u>NOVEMBER 2006</u>		SPECIES	<u>OCTOBER 2006</u>		<u>NOVEMBER 2006</u>	
	# of BIRDS	# FEEDERS VISITED	# of BIRDS	# FEEDERS VISITED		# of BIRDS	# FEEDERS VISITED	# of BIRDS	# FEEDERS VISITED
Blue Jay	130	22	168	30	White-throated Sparrow	16	5	131	22
Mourning Dove	149	21	252	30	Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	4	4	2
Northern Cardinal	77	21	81	29	Rock Dove	24	3	12	2
Black-capped Chickadee	69	20	95	27	Rufous-sided Towhee	10	3	1	1
Tufted Titmouse	63	19	83	29	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	3	3	2
Common Grackle	520	18	109	20	Hairy Woodpecker	5	2	8	5
House Sparrow	197	17	250	24	Dark-eyed Junco	4	2	32	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	25	15	31	25	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	2	0	0
European Starling	133	14	624	15	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2	3	3
American Crow	50	14	26	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	1	5	2
Downy Woodpecker	24	14	42	25	Brown creeper	1	1	1	1
House Finch	79	13	100	18	Eastern Phoebe	1	1	0	0
Red-winged Blackbird	76	13	45	12	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1	2	2
Northern Mockingbird	19	11	13	10	Brown Thrasher	0	0	1	1
Carolina Wren	16	11	25	18	Common Yellowthroat	0	0	1	1
Song Sparrow	17	10	31	16	Cooper's Hawk	0	0	1	1
American Goldfinch	57	9	48	13	Great Horned Owl	0	0	1	1
American Robin	31	9	251	11	Merlin	0	0	1	1
Common Flicker	23	9	13	10	Purple Finch	0	0	2	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	18	9	22	11	Red-tailed Hawk	0	0	1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	76	6	20	7	Swamp Sparrow	0	0	1	1
Gray Catbird	7	6	1	1	Wood Thrush	0	0	2	2
TOTAL BIRDS					<u>OCT. 2006</u>	<u>NOV. 2006</u>			
TOTAL SPECIES					1937	2543			
TOTAL SURVEYS					35	42			
TOTAL SURVEYS					22	30			

Survey Notes – Mary Beth Stembler

I see it's time to dust off the ole binoculars, "windex" the windows, and welcome everyone back to the new survey season. I hope you all enjoyed the summer and had a great holiday season.

We welcome six new survey participants: Kathy Brand (Blue Point), Michael Higgiston (East Quogue), Eileen Schwinn (East Quogue), Steve Kuhl (Calverton), Sally Newbert (East Moriches), Mike Calleran (Center Moriches).

October Bird Notes and Sightings

Thank you to Joanne Spitznagel from Shirley for the wonderful photo of the nestful of barn swallows she was lucky enough to have last summer. The parents picked her horse's stall for their home. The three babies all had that "mad bluebird" look about them.

Joanne Hart estimated at least 500 grackles and said they filled the sky heading south. Michael Higgiston reported 2 ruby-crowned kinglets and a golden-crowned kinglet. Eileen Schwinn also saw a golden-crowned kinglet. Eileen Oakes from Patchogue noted a "very uneventful" survey week except for a yellow-rumped warbler, but the week before as luck would have it, she saw her first ovenbird in the yard.

Ruth Levine of Riverhead had 4 yellow-rumps. John

Roberts from Wading River saw 2 yellow-rumps. Susan and Jay Kuhlman from Center Moriches also had 2 yellow-rumps and a yellow-bellied sapsucker. Joanne Spitznagel of East Patchogue had an eastern phoebe, and Phillis Bronzo saw a brown creeper. Bob and Gloria Brown said their birds all went to Florida.

November Bird Notes and Sightings

Gloria Brown of Brookhaven and Steve Kuhl reported a wood thrush. Gloria also reported 200 robins. It was difficult to estimate how many flew through, but they kept coming for over two hours. Beth Gustin from East Moriches saw a Cooper's hawk, a brown thrasher, and (in her driveway) a great blue heron. Tough fishing there.

Phyllis Bronzo had a swamp sparrow and a common yellowthroat, and her brown creeper was back. Susan and Jay Kuhlman saw a great horned owl, a red-tailed hawk, a merlin, and a yellow-bellied sapsucker. Susan Ritchie-Ahrens also reported a yellow-bellied sapsucker.

Two ruby-crowned kinglets were seen again by John Roberts and 3 by Eileen Schwinn. Jean Bass had a sharp-shinned hawk land on her platform feeder. Sharpshins were also seen by Susan Toplitz and Eileen Oakes, both from East Patchogue. George and Betty Wybenga had 2 purple finches. Joanne Spitznagel – keep sending your great little notes. I loved your "Bittersweet" observations. You rebel you! *(The editor regrets not having room to print Joanne's note. Maybe in the next issue?)*

Feed a Little – If at All

Last summer, ELIAS collaborated with the Village of Westhampton Beach to erect a sign at the “duck pond” asking people to keep duck feeding to a minimum. We know how much kids love to feed the ducks, but what they and their parents may not realize is that they are doing more harm than good.

When humans feed wild ducks and geese, the result is overfeeding, which interferes with normal growth and can result in developmental defects such as “crooked wing.” Artificially feeding waterfowl also increases their numbers. That increases the quantity of droppings and contributes to water pollution.

Conservation Chairman Gigi Spates worked on this project with board member Ridgie Barnett, who is also a Village Trustee. We are grateful to the Village for their help, and we are considering erecting similar signs in other areas.

Seed Sale 2006 – Beth Gustin

Our annual Fall Bird Seed Sale took place the weekend before Thanksgiving. Thanks to everyone who purchased seed, feeders, and items from our sales table. We appreciate your support and enjoyed talking with you when you came in to pick up seed. Thanks also to our generous suppliers, Neptune Feed in Calverton and Wild Bird Crossing in Bridgehampton. We encourage all our members to support them!

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to all the volunteers who helped over the weekend. From unloading the seed truck on Friday to packing up the last of the unsold items on Sunday, the volunteers really made the sale fun and successful.

Thanks again to everyone who made the 2006 Seed Sale a success.

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Eileen Schwinn, President – 728-8342
 Al Scherzer, Past President – 728-2898
 Beth Gustin, Vice President – 874-9424
 Larry Sturm, Recording Secretary
 John McNeil, Corresp. Secretary
 Evelyn Voulgarelis, Treasurer
 Mary Laura Lamont, Director (9/07)
 Shirley Morrison, Director (9/09)
 Bob Adamo, Director (9/08)
 Mike Marino, Director (9/08)
 Robert Murray, Director (9/08)
 Dan Wilson, Director (9/08)
 Ridgie Barnett, Director (9/08)

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 Conservation, Gigi Spates
 Programs (open)
 KP Nature Center Liaison, Al Scherzer
 Education, Evelyn Voulgarelis
 Nature Chats, Steve Biasetti
 Hospitality, Ridgie Barnett,
 Feeder Survey, Marybeth Stembler
 Feeder Survey Stats, Edgar Stembler
 Field Trips (open)
 Publicity, Peggy Caraher
 Web Master, Annette Oliveira
 Sales Corner, Mike Nelson,
 Bluebird Restoration Gigi Spates

NEWSLETTER EDITING & LAYOUT: Shirley Morrison 208-3894 (shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us)
 1145 Middle Rd. Apt. 8C,
 Riverhead 11901

The next deadline is January 25.

Events Calendar

January

7 – 19 Feeder Survey (in last issue)
 13 Waterfowl Census (in last issue)
 17 Waterfowl Census (in last issue)
 20 Waterfowl Census (in last issue)

February

3 Field Trip – Patchogue – p2
 4 – 11 Feeder Survey – p 9
 5 Nature Program – p1



Our Vision in a Nutshell – To be an inspiration to those who feel a sense of kinship about Long Island by encouraging an appreciation for the natural world and a commitment to the environment.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

For \$15 a year, you can receive 6 copies of this newsletter. You will also be supporting our local education and conservation activities. (Members of National Audubon who are not chapter members receive one copy of this newsletter per year.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Make check payable to Eastern Long Island Audubon and mail to ELIAS, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206, Attn. Membership

Please consider sending gift memberships to your friends.

10th Annual Great Backyard

Bird Count: February 16 – 18

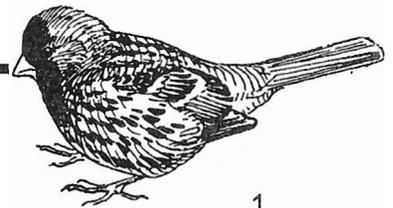
Join with thousands of others to find out how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you help document where the birds are, help track changes in their numbers compared to previous years, and help scientists paint a picture of the state of the birds.

- No fee or registration required
- All ages and skill levels welcome
- Track results in real time online
- Count in your backyard, balcony, schoolyard, park, or wildlife refuge
- Be a part of the network

For more information and to view results, go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc/

If you are new to birding or need to brush up on your skills, check out the same website for tips and resources to help you prepare for this event.

GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.



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