



The OSPREY

March/April 2012 — Vol. XXXVII No. 2

The Continuation of the Story of Fighting Eagle Creek, Gardiner's Island

MaryLaura Lamont

Many years ago in this Newsletter (March/April 2006) I had written a little story about the Eagles I had encountered on a certain section of Gardiner's Island. While participating in the annual Audubon Christmas Count there I had observed two immature Bald Eagles, talons locked together in a territorial or perhaps courtship display, over Bostwick Creek and Pond. My daughter, who had accompanied us several times, used to call the overlook where this aerial Eagle dual was observed from "Teapot Hill", because old Mr. Gardiner told us his Aunts used to take tea there in a little Tea House, long since taken down. The actual name of this most awe inspiring spot is Lone Tree Hill, because still to this day there is a small, lone tree on its magnificent overlook. After watching the locked Eagles twist and swirl down, almost into the water, I nicknamed the creek and pond area Fighting Eagle Creek. This name of course is only known to my mind and family, and now you readers know it too.

I am delighted and humbled to say that this past year on December 17, 2011, while again walking through the great wood known as Bostwick Forest and along the creek of the same name, I found Long Island's first eagles nest, after an absence of their nests for 50, maybe even 60 years. I guess the Eagles weren't fighting after all, but courting!

I had seen this nest actually last year, in 2010, but I didn't get close to it and only saw it through a spotting scope. It was huge so I suspected an Eagle's nest but never told a soul because I did not confirm it. This year I was determined to verify it and did so, all the while under the very watchful eyes of 2 adult Bald Eagles.

The larger female was quite agitated with me, and scolded me constantly as I approached the area. She was circling the whole time just above the tree tops, watching and scolding as I went. The male was circling just above her the whole time. Not wanting to annoy them anymore I really didn't linger. The nest is the largest bird's nest I've ever seen in my life, and my first Eagles nest up close. I would assume that it has been there for at least 3 years, perhaps more. Regardless, as I was leaving the area, who came in and perched to the right of the nest but an immature Bald Eagle, and the scolding female did not bother that bird. She just kept a watchful eye on me which helped hasten my retreat. So, I do believe the two adults were the owners of this nest, and the single immature could have been their youngster.

In talking with Larry Penny, Director of Natural Resources for the Town of East Hampton, about my encounter he informed me that all summer on the South Fork people had seen adult Bald Eagles. Probably this pair from Gardiner's made many hunting trips to the South Fork, as it is so close to where their aerie is.

I also spoke with Geoff LeBaron, from National Audubon. He said that the Connecticut River Eagles just north of Long Island were doing extremely well and their populations are expanding. He also

said there is good evidence that those adults stay near their territories in the winter. In other words, many of them do not migrate south like the more northern Eagles do. They seem to hold their territories year round, and they also court fairly early in the year, and therefore are early nesters.

With all this information in mind I have no doubt that the two adults I had about the forest nest were the owners of this nest, and perhaps the immature was their offspring. There was another immature in the area but not near the nest. Were both youngsters from this nest? I would like to say that at least one was. I am convinced that the one I saw perching near the nest was.

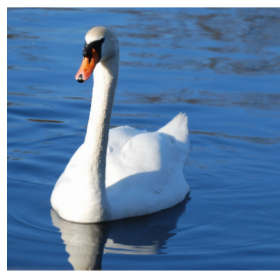
So you see dear reader I can no longer call this piece of paradise Fighting Eagle Creek. That name was very short lived. But the overlook will always be known as Lone Tree Hill, and of course in my family as Tea Pot Hill. And now, after half a century of absence, once again an Eagle's nest is within sight of this most magnificent spot, and its lone tree. I consider this an honor to have been there to see it. I only wish some of my old birding friends could have lived long enough to hear it said "the eagles are nesting on Gardiner's Island again." They probably all knew it was just a matter of time.



Highlights from the Nature Walks...

Saturday, January 7: Wintering Waterfowl around Patchogue Lakes

This mild, so far, winter has made birding quite enjoyable. Usually freezing as we gather around the lakes, this year was very pleasant. At Swan Lake we had a female wood duck come swimming out of the shadows. She even posed for a fairly nice portrait. Widgeons, Coots, Gadwall were all present. At Roe Blvd.. Coots and Pintail were abundant. At our next stop a Cooper's Hawk flew by. *Sally Newbert*



Saturday, February 4: East Hampton to Springs

In place of EagleFest a small group birded the East Hampton area. The ocean at Main Beach was fairly calm and visibility was outstanding, there, we found Red-throated Loons, Horned Grebes and two diving Northern Gannets. At nearby Hook Pond Common Mergansers, Hoodies were accompanied by 3 Great Blue Heron and 3 Pied-billed Grebe. Springs Fireplace Rd. was alive with birds, 4 Northern Harrier, one of which was both chaser and chasée of a Common Crow. We found Goldfinch and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk passed right over us along Gardiner's Bay. A low perched Red-tailed Hawk, was on shore preening. White-winged Scoter, a female Common Eider, Black-bellied Plover, and a flock of Common Goldeneye also got our attention. Well off the beach out towards Gardiner Island were numerous Scoter species and Long-tailed Ducks. We ended the morning watching a waterborne mass of Canada Geese one hundred yards off Sagg Main Beach, (a conservative estimate of 1200 birds). A splendid thing indeed.

Carl Starace

Earth Day at Quogue Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, April 22nd from 11 am to 4 pm

Come and celebrate nature and our lovely planet at the Refuge

- Guided nature walks
- Live animal presentations
- Crafts for children
- Environmental exhibitors
- Self-guided kayaking & canoeing on Old Ice Pond
- A special exhibit for the International Year of the Bat
- Toxic Brew, a short video about household chemicals,

will be shown throughout the day

A great day for all ages! No reservations necessary. Rain or shine.

This celebration is offered by Quogue Wildlife Refuge and Eastern Long Island Audubon Society.

What's Happening?

Nature Walks

Sat., March 3rd, 2012 @ 8:00am

The South Lakes and Ponds heading to Robert Moses State Park

Leader: John McNeil

You never know what we may have missed during the winter months or what early spring arrival may have stopped for a rest while heading north. So let's explore the south shore lakes heading west to Robert Moses State Park and check things out. Let's meet at the Park & Ride on east side of the old Home Depot (now Raymour & Flannigan & ShopRite) parking lot on the Sunrise Highway at Route 112 in Patchogue. We will leave the parking lot at 8:00 am for this adventure. For more details, contact John at his home 631.281.2623 or on his cell phone on the day of the bird outing at 631.219.8947.


Saturday, April 14, 2012 @ 8:00am

THE FAR EAST— Orient Point

Leader: John McNeil

Join us as we travel to various birding spots along the North Fork of Long Island out to Orient Pt., the far east of Long Island. We will stop at Marratooka Lake, areas along Peconic Bay Blvd., the East Marion Causeway, and Orient Beach State Park. The day will end at Orient Pt. County Park.

Some species sighted on the trip the last few years have been Common Eider, Goldeneye, Shoveler, Green-wing Teal, Wood Duck, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Harrier, and Horned Lark.

We will meet in the parking lot of the County Center Buildings in Riverhead, on Co. Rd. 51 at 8:00 am. Call trip leader John at his home 631.281.2623 or on his cell phone on the day of the bird outing at 631.219.8947. 

Get Involved

Would you like to submit an article or a photo?
We would like to hear from you.

Contact:
eliasosprey@optonline.net.

Nature Programs

Nature Programs are held at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. All programs are free and the public is welcome.

Bob Adamo, Interim Program Chair

Monday, March 5 beginning at 7:15 pm

Soil Makes a Garden Grow

Roxanne Zimmer

Roxanne Zimmer, PhD., has been spreading the word about best garden practices for a number of years. As a college professor, she promotes ecological awareness of soil, air and water quality. As a Master Gardener, Roxanne explains how to improve soil vitality at Cornell Cooperative Extension's Spring Gardening School. She speaks to environmental groups, garden clubs and at the Nature Lyceum as a Green Guerilla program graduate. She is a regular contributor to *Long Island Gardening Quarterly*. Her ecological approach to lawn care was the subject of a *Newsday* article.

Monday, April 2 beginning at 7:15 pm


Visions of My Mind

Photographer John Brokos,

Our April guest speaker will be John Brokos, photographer extraordinaire, who has given us many outstanding programs through the years since 1984, when I first started as Program Chairperson*. When John told me his newest program "Visions of My Mind" is simply "the best of the bunch", all I could say was "can we have it on April 2".

This will be a multi-image presentation with digital musical sounds, in addition to the digital images. It will consist of 8 sequences, that John labels as follows:

- 1) General Nature
- 2) People Portraits
- 3) General Pictorial, ie, landscapes
- 4) Animal & bird portraits
- 5) Flowers
- 6) Amish
- 7) "Off the wall" photography, aka "contemporary"
- 8) Redfield "Fractalis", aka "super fine art"

*My only sentiments on the above... "No April fools about this!" 

Blue Bluebird Report

Gigi Spates

This is a rather "blue" Bluebird report because our nest box trails have dwindled to just three that are being actively checked by human beings. At the peak of ELIAS's bluebird restoration work five and more years ago we had eight trails set up and surveyed. None of these trails were on property owned by ELIAS. Three are/were on golf courses; the others on governmentally-owned parcels, such as Suffolk County.

What has decreased the number of our trails that we now survey for Bluebird reproduction? It is a twofold answer.

First and foremost, the lack of mowing at several sites combined with the consequent increased probability of tick infestation has kept surveyors from daring to check the individual boxes set out along the trail. Our chapter has checked with the governmental entities to encourage them to mow the high grasses at least along the trail of nest boxes so that the person surveying has a relatively safe route to walk. Thus far we have heard that several of the nest box trails have or will receive a habitat mowing, that is, a yearly or twice yearly mow. Obviously, at the rate of grass growth that is not often enough to produce a safe mown trail.

Secondly, several of the bluebird trail habitats have advanced in succession, that is, the grassier habitat has been replaced by trees dense enough to discourage the Bluebirds themselves. Bluebirds prefer open habitat with a few scattered trees and shrubs at a moderate distance from their nest cavity. In order for these trail sites to be used again there would need to be more than mowing. Some trees and large shrubs would need to be removed or cut down to open up the surrounding habitat. As with increased mowing, with the continued economic recession there is little likelihood of tree/shrub removal.

In the meantime three Bluebird trails are being actively surveyed. For their persistence I want to thank surveyors Beth Gustin, Christine Schmidt and Evelyn Voulgarelis. Each person maintains the nest

boxes at one site, checks them every week or so in breeding season and records reproduction data such as nest built, eggs laid and fledglings (feathered young) leaving the nest.

For this past breeding season, which is generally from late March into early July, the totals for 36 nest boxes on three trails are:

Tree swallows fledged	over 50
House wrens fledged	over 10
Eastern bluebirds fledged	4

There is another problem. One of the surveyors put it quite succinctly, "I successfully thwarted all House Sparrow nesting attempts." That is a success in itself! House Sparrows are not a native species; as such they are not protected by law. They are quite aggressive, at times killing any other birds, adult or young, that might be in a desired nest cavity. All surveyors attempt to discourage this species from using our nest boxes.

While the results right now are sobering we are not yet "singing the blues"! With safety in mind for the survey people we WILL continue to encourage bluebirds and other cavity-nesting native birds.



Kaler's Pond

Jay Kuhlman

The Kaler's Pond Audubon Center will have two programs coming up:

March 18 **Owls of Long Island** with owl pellet dissection at the Center Moriches Library.

April 21. **Spring Celebration and Cleanup at the Nature Center.**

There might be a Woodcock breeding display walk depending on the weather and number of birds in the area. Watch the web site.

Members Corner

John McNeil

Another spring is right around the corner. When you read this article spring migrations will almost be going strong. Before heading out, check Dianne Taggart's web page: www.libirding.com. This site is devoted to bird watching on Long Island and "sightings and reports" is updated almost daily. Many local birders who make the rounds to the local hot spots submit reports to Dianne. You never know, one of those hot spots might be in your area and help you find that great bird to add to your viewing pleasure.

The February Field Trip to EagleFest at Croton Point was cancelled. With no ice on the river, there were no Eagles. Several birding blogs had warned birders that there just weren't any birds. With this information and facing a 2 hour drive and using expensive gas to drive upstate without the possibility of an Eagle sighting, I chose to cancel the trip. Maybe we will have better luck next year.

It just brings up the importance of sending your email to birdwchr@gmail.com. That way you will receive cancellations or changes in programming. Some programs are at the mercy of nature and weather. Changes are posted on our web site and on facebook. Of course you can always give the leader a call if in doubt.

On the birding blogs there has been a lot of chatter about birding etiquette, i.e. not following the golden rules. Please do not enter private property without permission, and do not stress the birds. We all want a good picture if we have a camera or a close view with our binoculars, be patient and limit the use of electronic calling devices. Some individuals made some bad choices that stressed the birds. Please be considerate of the wildlife so we can all enjoy their presence.

Before closing, I would like to thank all the feeder watchers for submitting their reports, I am still entering the data. An annual report will be printed soon. Also, I would like to thank all the chapter members for their membership renewals. Be sure to watch for the May field trips to catch the migration. It will have something for everyone.



Unusual Visitors to Long Island this winter

Frequently winter brings Long Island some unusual birds. Some may have been pushed by storms or just been the wrong way Corrigans of the bird world. This winter we were visited by a Mountain Bluebird in Wading River/Manorville, a Barnacle Goose in Eastport Pond, a Grace's Warbler near Point Lookout and a White-fronted Goose by the ranch in Montauk. Every now and then a Pelican was spotted near Montauk. And the holy grail of birds, the Snowy Owl has been spotted in several locations both at Jones Beach, Hampton Bays and Westhampton Beach. They do winter here on a sporadic basis. Reportedly there was an abundance of lemmings in the north which means many young owls survived and are now searching for food, both here and on the west coast.

Now for a sure thing, a Snow Goose arrived at Quogue Wildlife Refuge in September 2011. The Snow Goose had been just hanging around someone's yard in Southampton for a couple of weeks. It was brought to the attention of the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons. The vet at the Rescue Center diagnosed the wing damage as an old fracture that could not be repaired. Unable fly it was brought to QWR where it has been doing well... and making friends, both avian and human. You are sure to see it if you visit QWR.



This Snow Goose now calls Quogue Wildlife Refuge home. He (or she) was found in Southampton but is unable to fly. He is accepted by the other water fowl and can be easily seen with the flock of ducks and geese.

Seen Along Dune Road

Dune Road can often be a nice drive in the winter. Many people went to see if they could find the Snowy Owl. The owl found a safe refuge on an island that could easily be seen from Road 1 which is between the Ponqueogue Bridge and Shinnecock Inlet, too far for most camera lenses to get good images. But there were other photo ops along the way. Beth shared her photos of a Peregrin Falcon and a Great-blue Heron that also decided to winter along Dune Road.



BETH GUSTIN



BETH GUSTIN



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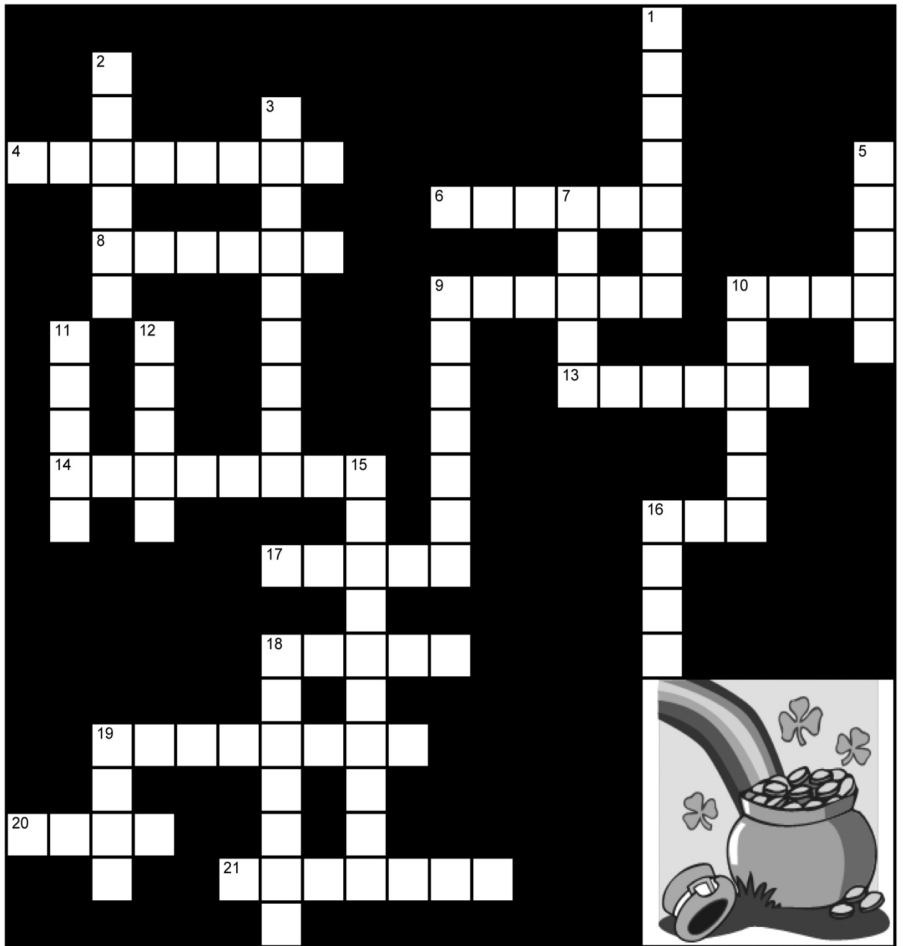
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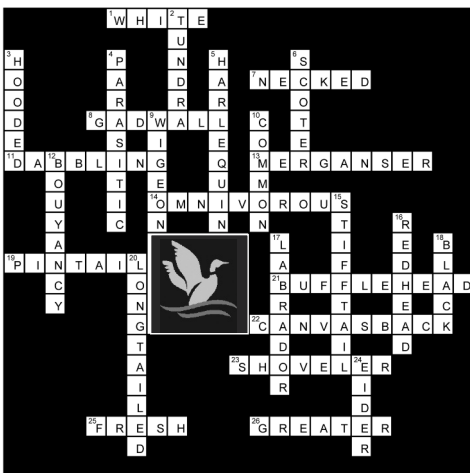
4. _____ Warbler, a sky blue warbler?
6. _____ Bunting, from the color derived from the plant
8. _____ Bunting, from the color of Lapis, a semiprecious stone
9. _____ Hummingbird, rare in this area but seen at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC this winter
10. American _____ finch
13. _____-crowned Night Heron
14. _____-sided Warbler
16. _____-breasted Warbler, named for the brownish breast color
17. _____-winged Scoter, common waterfowl off Montauk in the winter
18. _____ Shearwater, a large, dark bird
19. _____ Teal, a west coast bird, not a spice
20. _____ Jay, common further north
21. _____ Egret, bird with funky dance

Down

1. _____ Whistling Duck, who knew this meant a shade of beige
2. _____ Gallinule
3. _____ Duck, also means brightly colored diamond shapes
5. _____ Turnstone
7. _____ Gull, named for its pure, all white coloration
9. _____ Spoonbill, reddish bird with a strange eating mannerism
10. _____ Ibis, not so much a color as a finish
12. _____ Jay, an uncommon jay found in Mexico
15. _____-_____ Heron, with three colors?
16. Great-_____ Heron
18. _____ Tanager, Rhett Butler would like this bird (or maybe he just wouldn't give a damn!)
19. _____-colored Sparrow

Answers to last issue's puzzle

Winter Waterfowl



Answers to last issue's puzzle: Winter Waterfowl



The Razorbill

Alca Torda

Carl Starace

Many bird articles and birding blogs this winter have consistently listed the Snowy Owl and its frequent sightings around Long Island. Another bird species of note that has been sighted in larger than normal numbers all round our shores is the Razorbill. They are part of the family, Alcidae, or Auks, as they are called in Europe. True seabirds, they only come to land to breed in large colonies. The term Razorbill comes from the Swedish term describing the birds knifelike upper mandible. Razorbills resemble in miniature the Great Auk, a flightless bird of the North Atlantic that was decimated by hunting for its flesh and feathers. It was completely extinct by 1844. It was

actually known in the years before its demise as the, "Penguin". This being long before the other birds had been discovered in Antarctica. Razorbills were nowhere near as easy to dispatch because they could fly as well as swim underwater and were eventually listed as a protected species under the Migratory Bird Act of 1918.

Distribution: The Razorbills breed along the coasts of Labrador, eastern Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick, and more recently in coastal Maine. They winter from the coast of Newfoundland as far south as North Carolina. Razorbills are often found at sea with Common Murres, Thick-billed Murres, Puffins and Kittiwakes.

Behavior: Razorbills mate for life. The female lays only one egg per year. This species can dive close to 80 feet when it

needs to but most of its prey are in shallower depths. Prey items include squid, capelin, juvenile cod, sardines, herring and sprat. Razorbills may fly over 100 kilometers offshore of their breeding area to feed, (much closer after the egg has hatched.) They can catch and keep several small fish in their bill at one time.

Description: This bird has a stocky neck and largish head. Its bill is heavy and blunt edged, unlike the Common or Thick-billed Murre. The long and pointy tail is usually raised when sitting upon the water (the Murres and Puffins tails are not). Razorbills are very, very dark above and pure white below. In all seasons sitting Razorbills upon water show white along their flanks. Wintering juveniles and adults show some white behind the eye. Both also have white throats and cheeks but the breeding adult entire head and throat are jet black.

Where to Observe: Razorbills are along our shores mainly in winter. Probably the best place to observe them is in the waters around the Lighthouse at Montauk State Park. Inlets such as Shinnecock, Mattituck, and Jones Beach can also be good. (Some birders had close to one hundred Razorbills just off of the Jones Beach jetties this past January). This year has been a little special and so with a little luck you may see one on a short stroll down the beach.

Good Birding, Carl

It's in the Air

The Environmental Protection Agency is poised to take a bite out of carbon pollution through proposed standards for new coal-fired power plants. With the unlovely name of New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), this draft rule is nevertheless our next best shot at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing climate change.

Leading scientists warn that climate change poses a grave threat to the world's biodiversity. With legislative climate solutions mired in bipartisan gridlock in Congress, this new draft standard offers a way to make progress on one of the biggest polluters of carbon pollution: coal-fired power plants. If this rule goes well, dirty, older plants are next in line for pollution reductions.

Getting comments in to EPA to support this standard is a top priority for Audubon. You can help by sending in the

postcard you'll find in the March/April of Audubon Magazine. Look for the snowy owl, one of many birds whose habitat is being impacted by our warming climate. Let's get an avalanche of support into EPA to reduce carbon pollution!



From The National Audubon Society



Research Leads to the Discovery of a Maine Puffin's Winter Wanderings!

Story used with the permission of Dr. Stephen Kress

For all of us who have wondered where puffins go in the winter, at last we have our first answer, and it is surprising. Results of the first ever winter tracking of individual puffins from North America are just in, thanks to researchers at Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program, also known as Project Puffin.

Given their short wings and chunky bodies, one might guess that Puffins wouldn't travel far from their land-based nesting colonies. The surprising discovery that Maine Puffins do travel far from those islands was revealed when National Audubon Society researchers attached tracking devices to the leg bands of eight Puffins in 2009 at Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge, a 65-acre treeless island located 21 miles off the coast of Rockland, Maine. The lives of Puffins are fairly well known when they are nesting on land, but surprisingly little is known about their whereabouts and habits after they leave their nesting islands. Puffins, who can live 30 or more years, return each year to the island where they previously nested. They usually appear in early spring and each pair lays their single egg in a deep rock crevice. After an incubation period of about six weeks, the egg hatches and parents tend the chick for the next six weeks. The chicks head off to sea in July, and their parents typically follow within the next few weeks, spending the next eight months of the year living an oceanic life. Although Puffins are occasionally seen at sea in the winter, nothing was known about the specific movements of individual Maine birds, until now.

The first Maine Puffin ever tracked spent October through December in the outer Gulf of Maine, moving northward along the continental shelf of Nova Scotia on his way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence where he spent most of January, before heading south to the far offshore waters of the

Mid-Atlantic States, nearly to Bermuda. The tiny, capsule-shaped tracking devices measure light intensity and time of day to estimate day length and plot the Puffins' locations (+/- 115 miles). Unlike satellite transmitters that are attached to larger animals, these geolocators store information until the animal is re-captured and the device is removed to retrieve the data. Although several of the tagged Puffins returned to Seal Island in 2010, and again in 2011, the wary birds eluded capture until June 23, 2011 when one of the Puffins (named "Cabot" after a human seafaring explorer) landed on top of a Puffin trap. Waiting in a nearby observation blind, 19-year old Ben Donnelly, an Ithaca College student, quickly responded, pulling a string release that dropped the Puffin with its prize into a box where he and island supervisor Sarah Gutowsky removed the precious tracking tool. Days later, a second Puffin carrying a geocator was also captured.

Both birds were later found to have roughly similar haunts at sea, though Cabot's travels were more extensive—especially his venture north into the Labrador Sea. As seabird habitats are increasingly threatened by climate change, fisheries, off-shore drilling and wind farms, it is becoming increasingly important to discover migratory patterns to better safeguard the birds at both their nesting and winter homes. Additional studies are necessary to confirm these results and to look for further patterns.

While soaring seabirds such as Albatross and Shearwaters are known to fly much further than Puffins, Cabot's flight is all the more amazing for the energy expended. Puffins typically fly by rapid flapping, in which they reach speeds of up to 50 mph, beating their wings 300-400 beats per minute.

Researchers Scott Hall and Steve Kress presented the long-awaited information to

JOURNAL ENTRY

June 23, 2011 ••• Seal Island, Maine

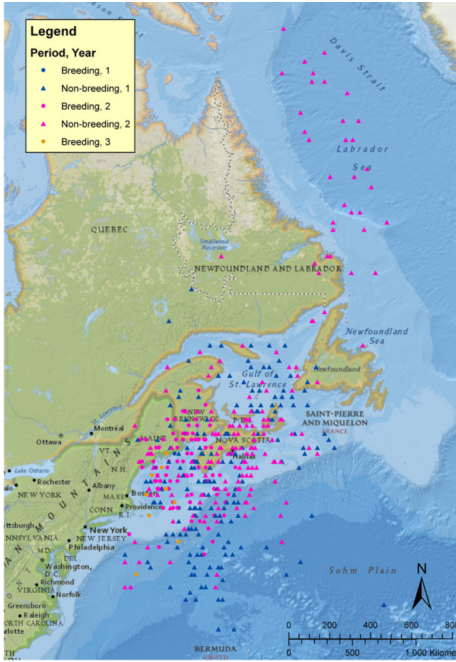
"Woke up to the sound of rain on my tent. Spent most of the morning inside. Went out after lunch and read Puffin band numbers with scope from my blind. Saw two GEO puffins (with geolocators), so called Sarah and set up the box trap. It was a good idea because soon after, I caught one of the GEO puffins! I had to do a double take and almost fell climbing down from my blind. I rushed over to cover the trap to make sure the Puffin didn't get out. Sarah took the 'locator' off while we weighed and measured the Puffin in the blind. After which we took some pictures with the Puffin. The Puffin bite is pretty good—he got me with the tip of the bill."



PHOTO BY SARAH GUTOWSKY

Ben Donnelly

MAP BY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE GULF OF MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM



A map of Cabot's travels once he left the breeding grounds on Seal Island, Me.



Cabot with the tiny capsule-shaped geolocator tracking device attached to his leg. Once the he was recaptured, and the data downloaded, it revealed his surprising two-year journey at sea.

the seabird scientific community on February 8th, 2012 at the 39th annual meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group in Turtle Bay, Hawaii.

From the geolocator

Year 1 (June 2009 to May 2010)

Puffin Cabot was tagged with a geolocator on August 2nd 2009. He departed Seal Island in mid-August, heading northeast. He spent October through December in the outer Gulf of Maine, moving northward along the continental shelf of Nova Scotia on his way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence where he spent most of January, before heading south to the far offshore waters of the Mid-Atlantic States, nearly to Bermuda. He stayed in this region from February to April, before returning to Seal Island in May, 2010.

Year 2 (May 2010 to July 2011)

After spending most of the summer at Seal Island, Cabot departed Seal Island in late July, repeating his travels northeast along the ocean coast of Nova Scotia, past Sable Island and on to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In this second year, he kept moving north, eventually to the deep waters of the northern Labrador Sea. As in year one, Cabot then moved south to the offshore Mid-Atlantic waters, a distance of 2,800 miles. By May, he had returned to Seal Island, where he was captured on

June 23, 2011. His eight month journey covered a remarkable round trip distance of about 4,800 miles.

Puffins had been absent from Seal and other Maine islands due to excessive hunting for meat and feathers in the late 19th century. They were restored to the island over an eight year period by hand-rearing and releasing chicks brought from Newfoundland. Now, more than 500 pairs nest on Seal Island.

You can visit a Maine Puffin colony with Dr. Stephen Kress this summer at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Contact: Hog Island Audubon Camp, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, 607-257-7308 x14, hogisland@audubon.org to see if there are still openings.

**ELIAS is on Facebook
Check it Out and Click on Like**

Winter Waterfowl Count

Jay Kuhlman

The Smith Point to Shinnecock Canal, NYSOA's Winter Waterfowl Count was held on January 14th. Eight brave people came out and counted anything that swam. 29 species of birds were counted. Highlights included 6 Redheads, 36 American Wigeon, 7 Canvasbacks, 31 Coots, one Pintail, 3 Green-winged Teal, 168 Ruddy Ducks, 131 Hooded Mergansers, one Pied-billed Grebe, 9 Horned Grebes, 52 Double-crested Cormorants, and the Barnacle Goose at Eastport Pond.

The Participants were John McNeil, Rich Sautkulis, Andy Murphy, Steve Biasetti, Carl Starace, Kevin Nolan, Dick Belanger and Jay Kuhlman. I would like to thank these people for giving up a day to help compile the birds seen. The data will be used by the DEC and will be published in "The Kingbird" and on the NYSOA web site.

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Feeder Survey — 2012

John McNeil

The Survey will be conducted the first full week of the month starting on Sunday and ending the following Sunday.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FEEDER SURVEY

- Define an area containing feeders that you can see all at once from a window. The area should be one you glance at frequently during your daily routine.
- Don't include birds seen off premises.
- Predators perching in or swooping through the count area (not just flying over) may be counted if you feel that they were attracted by the birds at the feeder.
- Record the largest number of each species that you see in your count area during the eight-day count period.
- Do not add counts from previous days together. Be specific with the species name, e.g. we can't use just the name Sparrow, Blackbird or Gull.
- At the end of the count period, record your final tallies and send in the form immediately.

Personal observations and comments are welcome as are suggestions to improve the surveys and reports.

There are three ways to participate:

1. Mail the survey to:

Feeder Survey c/o John McNeil
168 Lexington Road
Shirley, NY 11967

2. Send your information via the internet

go to:
easternlongislandaudubon.org
and

- 1) Click on: Chapter Projects
- 2) Click on: Feeder Statistics
- 3) Click on: To submit via the internet and follow the prompts

3. Email the results to:
birdwchr@gmail.com

A White-breasted Nuthatch feeds in Byron Young's backyard feeder.

If you would like to see your photo here, please submit a photo of bird(s) at your feeder or in your backyard, send your photo to: eliasosprey@optonline.net.



BYRON YOUNG

Survey Dates:

Sun. March 4 to Sun. March 10

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

- ___ American Crow
- ___ American Goldfinch
- ___ American Robin
- ___ Black-capped Chickadee
- ___ Blue Jay
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird
- ___ Carolina Wren
- ___ Common Flicker
- ___ Common Grackle
- ___ Dark-eyed Junco
- ___ Downey Woodpecker
- ___ European Starling
- ___ Gray Catbird
- ___ Hairy Woodpecker
- ___ House Finch
- ___ House Sparrow
- ___ Mourning Dove
- ___ Northern Cardinal
- ___ Northern Mockingbird
- ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- ___ Red-winged Blackbird
- ___ Rock Dove
- ___ Rufous-sided Towhee
- ___ Shap-shinned Hawk
- ___ Song Sparrow
- ___ Tufted Titmouse
- ___ White-breasted Nuthatch
- ___ White-throated Sparrow
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- ___ Other _____

Survey Dates:

Sun. April 1 to Sun. April 7

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

- ___ American Crow
- ___ American Goldfinch
- ___ American Robin
- ___ Black-capped Chickadee
- ___ Blue Jay
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird
- ___ Carolina Wren
- ___ Common Flicker
- ___ Common Grackle
- ___ Dark-eyed Junco
- ___ Downey Woodpecker
- ___ European Starling
- ___ Gray Catbird
- ___ Hairy Woodpecker
- ___ House Finch
- ___ House Sparrow
- ___ Mourning Dove
- ___ Northern Cardinal
- ___ Northern Mockingbird
- ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- ___ Red-winged Blackbird
- ___ Rock Dove
- ___ Rufous-sided Towhee
- ___ Shap-shinned Hawk
- ___ Song Sparrow
- ___ Tufted Titmouse
- ___ White-breasted Nuthatch
- ___ White-throated Sparrow
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- ___ Other _____



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This is a

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Address _____

City/State _____

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on page 11 to keep your membership current.**

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eliasosprey@optonline.net

Mark Your Calendars

Sat., March 3

Nature Walk (see page 3)

Lakes and Ponds Heading South to Robert Moses State Park
John McNeil, leader

Mon., March 5

Nature Program (see page 3)

Soil Makes a Garden Grow, Roxanne Zimmer

Sun., March 18

Owls of Long Island, presented by Kahler's Pond Audubon
at the Center Moriches Library (see page 4)

Mon., April 2

Nature Program (see page 3)

Visions of My Mind, Photographer John Brokos

Sat., April 14

Nature Walk (see page 3)

The Far East to Orient Point, John McNeil, leader

Sat., April 21

Spring Celebration and Cleanup at the Kahler's Pond

Sun., April 22

Earth Day at Quogue Wildlife Refuge
from 11 am to 4 pm

Monday night Nature Programs/meetings begin at 7:15 pm and take place at
Quogue Wildlife Refuge. All programs are free and open to all.

Changes in programming, will be posted on the website and on facebook.
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any last minute program changes. Join ELIAS on Facebook.

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