



The OSPREY

Nov./Dec/ 2011 — Vol. XXXVI No. 6

Nature Programs

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

Monday, November 7 beginning at 7:15 pm

Motmots for Breakfast: Costa Rican Birding in July

Presented by **Donna Schulman & Ian Resnick**

Costa Rica has the greatest density of bird species of any continental American country: 893 species sighted in an area smaller than West Virginia, and most birders have it on their bucket list. Ian and Donna birded Costa Rica in the summer of 2010 (Ian's fourth trip, Donna's first) and will be sharing tales and photographs of their adventures, from the hummingbird vistas of Rancho Naturalista to the Caribbean lowlands of La Selva to the Cloud Forest Preserve of Monteverde. Sightings of Motmots, Trogons, Sabrewings and a rare Ground-dove did not stop them from also photographing (or trying to photograph) every butterfly, dragonfly, and lizard that came their way. If you've been to Costa Rica, come relive the fun. If you haven't, this is an opportunity to do some armchair travelling (or folding-chair travelling), and get the inspiration you need to start planning your own trip.

For Donna Schulman, birding and photography combine many of the joys of life—nature, travel, taxonomy, digital composition and opportunities to meet interesting people the world over. Donna is a former editor of *News and Notes*, the Queens County Bird Club newsletter, and is currently a volunteer with the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory (NJ Audubon). When not photographing dragonflies, butterflies and birds in NY, NJ or Florida, she is at her day job as director of the Carey Library, Rutgers University. Her photographs have been cited by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and are used by SHBO staff for educational presentations.

Ian Resnick has been birding for 25 years, becoming hooked upon watching a Rose-breasted Grosbeak singing from its nest at Ward Pound Ridge, Westchester. Ian joined the Queens County Bird Club in 1990 and has been an officer (treasurer or president) since 1992. Ian leads many QCBC field trips, plus beginning birder trips for Alley Pond Environmental Center, and enjoys helping the club's less experienced birders. He has birded much of the US, parts of Canada, and Central and South America. His travels to the southern hemisphere have included volunteer work with Earthwatch involving sea turtles, parrots and other wildlife. He has been to Costa Rica four times, and insists that he has not seen every bird in that country.

Monday, December 5 beginning at 7:15 pm

Tanzania Extravaganza!

Dianne Taggart & Linda Sullivan

If you have missed every single one of the ELIAS meetings this year, here is your opportunity to turn that dismal record around! Come to the meeting on December 5th and let Dianne Taggart and Linda Sullivan share their experiences in Tanzania, East Africa with you. They have put together their still photos which include over 50 resplendent avian delights! They have coupled these photos with video clips, when available, trying to depict not only the beauty of the bird, but also attempting to show some behavioral characteristics. The unrivaled Serengeti Plains serve as the dramatic backdrop for all the action.



Verreaux's Eagle Owl

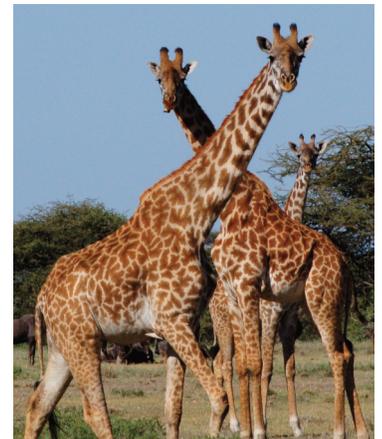
In an attempt to "increase the flock" at this meeting, they have included photos and videos of lions, elephants, giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, gazelles, baboons, monkeys and many more! There is truly something for everyone!

This 45-minute presentation is the result of many more hours of preparation than they would like to admit. Please come out and enjoy it and make their work worthwhile! And hey....this is your last opportunity to rid yourself of that "no meetings in 2011" stigma!



Secretary Bird

Dianne, Linda, the birds, the adorable lion cubs, the baby elephants and the frolicking hippos are all looking forward to seeing you on Dec 5th! Don't disappoint us.



The Annual Dinner...

The ELIAS dinner was held on Oct. 19th at The Vineyards in Aquebogue. John Confer spoke to the group. He has spent a great deal of time with the researchers of The Peregrine Fund in northern Arizona. They are working to reestablish the wild population of the California Condor. In 1982 only 22 were known. Now, with the captive breeding program researchers keep track of over 200 birds. The birds are raised with puppets, and once released have to be taught the basics, what to eat, where to sleep, etc. Sometimes when the Condor has selected the wrong spot, researchers have been forced to take their sleeping bags and sleep on the ledges to protect them. You can learn more, and support their work at www.peregrinefund.org.

John McNeil received **The Osprey Award**. John has done so much for ELIAS over the years, planning field trips, dealing with endless mailing data and membership lists, feeder surveys, bird counts and waterfowl censuses are just some of what he does. Best of all, he shares his birding knowledge with all who accompany him on field trips.

Ridgie Barnett, dinner chairperson, wrapped up the evening by announcing the raffle prize winners.



Above: Eileen Schwinn congratulates John McNeil, The Osprey award winner.



Left: John Confer talks to the group.

Below: The dining room filled with attentive listeners.

Ghosted: A drawing by Karen Confer, the speaker's wife, who was an artist-in-residence at the Condor release site.



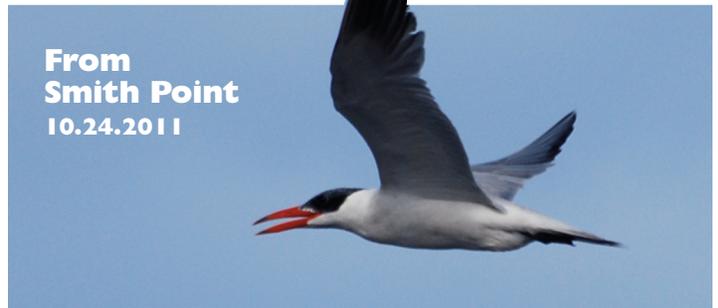
Highlights from the Nature Walks...



From Terrell River 9.10.2011



A group from the west coast joined Carl (above) on his walk at Terrell River. The highlight was a Blue-winged Warbler bathing at the drip near the bay.



From Smith Point 10.24.2011

It was supposed to rain all day, but the rain held off for the morning walk at Smith Point.

In the parking lot, a group of Caspian Terns (one flying above) greeted us. As did a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in the circle as you enter. A Thrasher was also very cooperative.



Upcoming Nature Walks — John McNeil

Saturday, November 5th, @ 8:30 AM

Smith Point County Park

Trip Leader: Carl Starace

Participants will meet at the far western end of the "Worlds Largest Parking Lot." Please watch the weather and wear appropriate outerwear and don't forget to bring your binoculars and scopes. We will proceed to the Ranger Station for viewing from the upper deck and then hike out into the Wilderness Area watching for migrating songbirds, waterbirds and birds of prey. This is an exciting time of year to be out on the barrier beach so come on out! This bird walk is sponsored by Cornell and Suffolk County Parks. For more details, contact Carl at 631.281.8074 or e-mail him at: castarace@optonline.net

Sat., November 12th @ 9:00 AM

Jones Beach State Park and Point Lookout

Trip Leader: John McNeil

This area is a catch basin for all types of birds and can produce many surprises. We will try to catch the tail end of the fall migration, the arrival of our winter visitors from the north. Please, do not forget to bring water and snacks.

First we will meet at the West End #2 parking lot at 9 am, and bird this areas. Then will drive over to Point Lookout to scope out the jetties and exposed sandbars. After birding these area we will drive along Ocean Parkway east to Robert Moses State Park, where we will park and see what's happening at the hawk watching platform. If time permits, we will walk out on the boardwalk to Fire Island Light House.

Sat., November 19th @ 9:00 am

Jamesport State Park and Hallockville Farm Fields

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

The varied habitats of the farm fields, woods, ponds, and dunes on Long Island Sound provide a diversity of migrants and winter-

ing 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.

Sun., November 20th @ 9:00 am

Old Mastic Autumn Bird Walk William Floyd Estate

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

The William Floyd Estate in Mastic is 613 acres of mowed fields, woods, creeks and salt marshes. Round trip walk of 3 miles will turn up wintering hawks, ducks, sparrows, and perhaps Bluebirds. Bring binoculars. Main entrance is 245 Park Drive, Mastic. Call the trip leader MaryLaura Lamont at the Estate at 631.399.2030 for details.

Sat., November 26th @ 9:00 am

Theodore Roosevelt County Park Bird Walk

Trip Leader: Carl Starace

This large park is a historic landmark. It hosts a variety of ecosystems important to Long Island, including fresh and saltwater ponds and wetlands. You can also find a diverse group of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians that live amongst these ecosystems. There are trails for exercise or a nature hike. This bird walk is sponsored by Cornell and Suffolk County Parks. For more details, contact Carl at 631.281.8074 or e-mail him at: castarace@optonline.net

Directions: Follow Montauk Highway East through Montauk Village. Continue on Montauk Highway past East Lake Drive. Park sign and entrance is on north side of Montauk Highway.

Saturday, Dec. 3rd, @ 9:00 am

Shinnecock County Park Bird Walk

Trip Leader: Carl Starace

This will be an excellent time to bird along the barrier beach for lingering land birds as well as hawks and shorebirds. The migration has already passed through, our winter residents will have come in from the north. Join Carl as he guides you along this route. Meet on the west side of Shinnecock Inlet at 9:00 am in the parking lot. This bird walk is sponsored by Cornell and Suffolk County Parks. For more details, contact Carl at 631.281.8074 or e-mail him at: castarace@optonline.net

Sat, Jan. 7th, 2012 @ 9:00 AM

Lakes Around Patchogue

Trip Leader: John McNeil

Come see winter-resident waterfowl on the lakes of Patchogue. John tells us "these lakes are God's little oases for wintering waterfowl. There's always a surprise or two to peak your interest!"

Join John for either a half or full-day excursion (conditions permitting). Meet at 9 am at the Swan Lake Club House on Swan Lake in East Patchogue. Contact John at 631.281.2623 for details. On the day of the trip, John's cell is 631.219.8947.



Harlequin Ducks off Point Lookout

Dear ELIAS Members,

Thank you, again, for sending our son, Michael to summer camp. Michael went to Pack Forest this summer. He was able to sleep outside, hike and meet other teenagers from the region. He had a wonderful time.

Getting away from electronics was refreshing. He came home with a big smile. As parents, we are grateful you provide the scholarships for children to experience the outdoors. Without your help, Michael would not have been able to attend camp.

Thank you again,

Lou, Sharyn, and Michael, too!
Cutchogue, NY

And Heaven and Nature Sing

Returning to our farm after midnight service
Grandmother points to the bright star in clear black
"Listen," she whispers
As if we might hear the angelic chorus
Then, over snow on the hay field from the woods in back
intoning of the Great Horned Owl.

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.
First Poet Laureate
Nassau County, New York
2007-09

SCHOLARSHIPS

for teens to attend DEC Summer Camp

EASTERN LONG ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY is offering scholarships to students in grades 7 through 12 to attend New York State Department of Conservation camps for one week. Campers will choose between two camps in the Adirondacks, one in the Catskills, or one in 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.

A perfect candidate would be interested in the environment, and anxious to learn more, (*Parents do not have to be Audubon members.*) Here is what the candidates need to do:

- Fill out the form below.
- Write an essay stating why they are worthy candidates for the scholarship. Include environmental experiences and interests. Also, describe what benefit they would like to derive from the experience.
- Have a parent attach a letter stating that they are aware of the transportation stipulation.

If accepted

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

For more information, call Ridgie at 631-288-3628.

Please complete and forward the application by **January 12, 2012** to:

Education Committee
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society
PO Box 206
East Quogue, NY 1942-0206

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 _____

Mystery Birding on Pantalleria

Michael J. Beck, Ph.D.

This past July I was fortunate enough to be able to visit Pantalleria. This is a small volcanic island located between Tunisia and Sicily. My first impression was that this was not a very promising place for birding. In my previous trips to Italy, which took place in large towns and cities, I saw only a small variety of birds, primarily sparrows, doves and magpies. With this bias, I didn't feel particularly encouraged. In contrast, in the United States we seem to be blessed with a more diverse bird population in our urban areas. My daughter lives up on 123rd Street and we regularly see hawks, cardinals, doves and a variety of other species. She's fortunate enough to live close to Central Park and that explains some of it. However, my initial impression of Pantalleria underwent some changes. As we drove about the island, I saw that there were a variety of habitats. Pantalleria is surrounded by the Mediterranean. I learned that it is a stop-over for migrating birds traveling between Africa and Europe. Unfortunately I visited not in the spring when bird activity seems to be at its height but rather during July. However, I had some interesting experiences. One night we were all out on the patio after sunset and I observed what looked like bats flying around Eucalyptus trees. My host told me that these were birds. Since they were obviously feeding, I couldn't imagine what they could be besides bats. Eucalyptus trees attract huge populations of bees. Some of these bees appeared to still be in the area after sunset and my best guess, although I never saw the birds during the day, was that these were bee-eaters which was based on their behavior and the population of bees, I'd say this is a reasonable guess. I looked closely at the silhouettes and they didn't look like bats even though this was my first impression. They didn't seem to swoop around and undulate like bats so maybe they were birds. I did some research and I learned that there is a resident population of bee-eaters on the island. In addition, I consulted with some more experienced birders. They reminded me there's the night jar which feeds at

night and I also learned that bee-eaters are diurnal during migration, so perhaps this is a population of bee-eaters that have learned to take advantage of a convenient and tasty treat and change their behavior.

After dusk a strange sound drifted up from the sea. Although I didn't understand what it was at first, my host told me that

The legend recounts that the strange cries we heard that night are mourning cries for the death of one of the characters from Greek mythology.

these were birds making this disturbed mournful sound. I was told these were Sulas. He didn't know their name in English so I looked it up and apparently they were Gannets. My host went on to tell me there's a legend about these birds. The legend recounts that the strange cries we heard that night are mourning cries for the death of one of the characters from Greek mythology.

During the evening on the following day, I looked out over the ocean and there were rafts of sea birds. Something must have come up from the sea that night that they were feasting on.

If I return to Pantalleria, I'll try to rent a boat. I gave the caves a cursory once over during the day, but I didn't see any birds. It's possible that they were sequestered further back in the cave where they couldn't be observed.

As we were circumnavigating the island, a couple of what I thought were hawks flew in front of us. I looked in my bird books and couldn't really find a bird that exactly matched what I saw. The bird was hawk-size and had a beautiful brown coat all along its back with some lighter feathers intermixed. I really didn't see underneath

the bird. These birds were observed in what, I would call, the residential area as well as up in the pine forest. Subsequent reading advised me that there were a couple of populations of tits and another bird that are not found in any other place in Europe. In view of my initial impression, I thought this was all quite remarkable.

As we drove up the side of the mountain, I could see that there was an existing habitat which consisted of a variety of pines, oaks, and other trees that were festooned with lichens and mosses. This was a cooler temperate area on the island which is basically desert like, although other trees exist. It rains in the spring time and then it's dry throughout most of the rest of the year. In fact, the people who are able to survive on this island had to construct huge cisterns to hold water for use in agriculture, cooking, drinking, etc. during the dry period. Now the island is turned over to a large extent to the cultivation of wine grapes for dessert wine and capers. I believe that the cultivation of capers probably goes back at least to Roman times. Incidentally, Nero exiled his wife to the island. That wasn't enough for him and he brought her back and killed her. In addition to the ghosts of empresses, there are also rabbits on the island which might be prey for the raptors that I saw, and they may also partake of a large population of small lizards. In addition that are introduced populations of foxes on the island. I also had the chance to visit a lake which is fed by volcanic springs as well as rain water runoff. Further research helped me to understand that there's a population of shore birds which can be observed around the lake. These include flamingos and herons. After an initially discouraging perception of the island, I was really excited to hear about the variety of birds that make this beautiful place their home. I'm looking forward to going back and doing some more serious birding.

The author may be reached at michaelbeck534@gmail.com.



OBITUARY

Bertel Bruun, 73

Sally Newbert with some information from *The New York Times*.

Bertel Bruun was one of the co-authors and designer of *A Golden Field Guide: Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North America*. He was primarily responsible for the clear layout which put the birds, description and maps across a 2-page spread. A format which became a staple of guides to follow.

Dr. Bruun was born in Skaelskor, Denmark in 1937. He earned his bachelor's and medical degrees at the University of Copenhagen. He moved to New York in the mid-1960's where he specialized in neurology.

After a stroke left him unable to practice medicine, he made Remsenberg, Long Island his home, where he was able to wander the woods in search of birds.

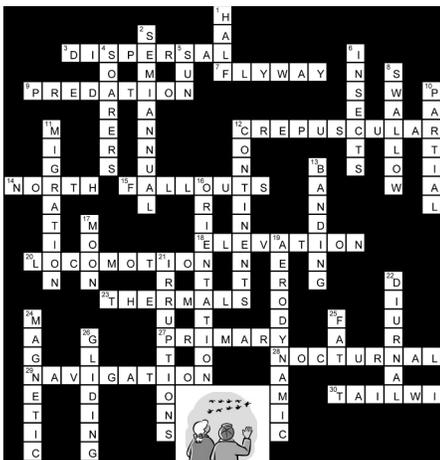
In addition to authoring several other guide books he stated a company called March of Time which traded in antique toy soldiers, more than 5,000 lined his shelves. In 1994 he wrote *Toy Soldiers Identification and Price Guide*.

On a more local note, he was a speaker at an Eastern Long Island Annual Dinner quite a few years ago.

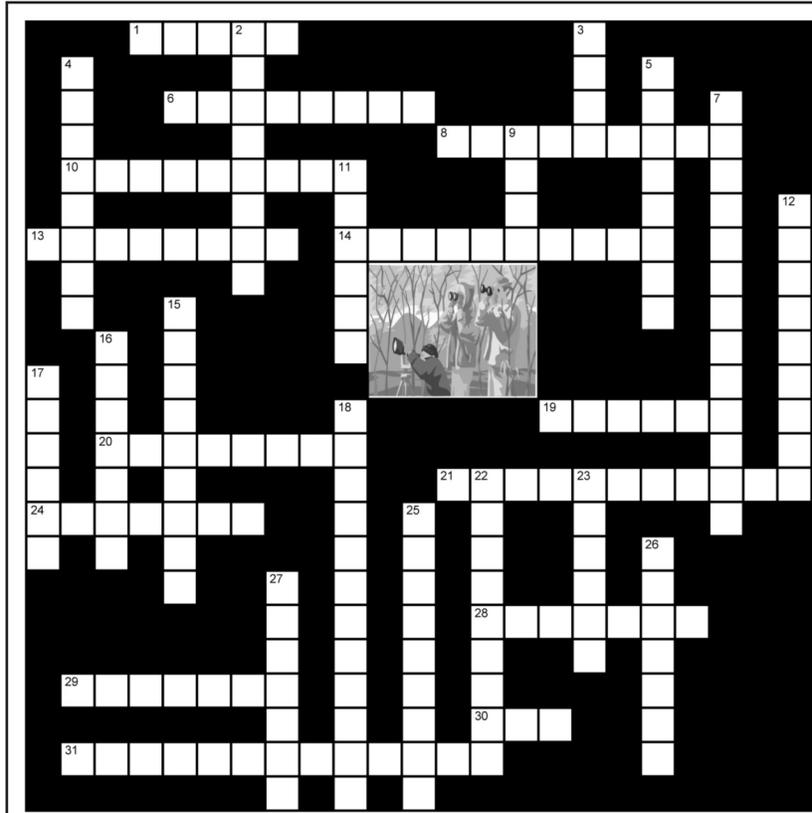
I bet most birders will find a copy of his book in their collections. Mine is falling apart.



Answers to last issue's puzzle Migration



Habitat by Tom Moran



Across

- 1 ____Owl, likes to breed in the arctic tundra
- 6 "Edge" habitats, some species specialize in these meeting places between two different habitats
- 8 A common local habitat, experiences tides and limited wave action
- 10 EPCAL, for example
- 13 Resting or sleeping, trees, cavities, ground, for example
- 14 Plants replace previous species, shrubs and trees replacing grass, for example
- 19 Areas beyond treeline that are not permanently covered by ice or snow
- 20 Hunting for food
- 21 A habitat that results from sandy soil, preferred by Brown Thrashers and Eastern Towhees
- 24 ____ Rail, breeds in saltmarsh habitat
- 28 Species that spends most of their time over the open ocean
- 29 The specific environment that a bird lives in
- 30 This leafed tree mixes with pine from southern New England to Florida. An important habitat tree for many species.
- 31 When a large habitat is broken up into smaller, separate ones, leads to individuals becoming isolated

Down

- 2 A sparse forest, characterized by smaller trees or wide spacing
- 3 ____ Warbler, likes to breed in stunted spruce trees near bogs

- 4 Swamp species of tree that is a favorite nursery for species such as herons, egrets and ibises
- 5. Northern ____ expanded its range northward as the suburbs grew
- 7 ____ Sparrow, A species that migrates because of lack of food in the winter in northern hardwood forests (two words)
- 9 Habitat ____, vanishing tallgrass prairies, for example
- 11 Mojave, for example, a good place to spot a LeConte's Thrasher
- 12 ____ forest, one in which trees lose their leaves in the winter, a favorite of Blue Jays, Ovenbirds
- 15 The features of the planet that will influence habitat
- 16 Land exposed by tides, popular among waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, gulls, terns, like Cup-sogue
- 17 A high mountain, evergreen tree, favored by Red-breasted Nuthatches
- 18 A man made habitat, farmland
- 22 Unusually high counts of a species, failure of seed crops in boreal orests leads to Pine Grosbeak ones locally
- 23 A forest made up of fir, spruce, pine
- 25 A duck that prefers fast flowing rivers
- 26 Temperature and rainfall, which impacts species distribution, is called ____
- 27 An activity that will take a variable amount of time and energy depending on what's available for use in the habitat

It's Turkey Time on the South Fork

Larry Penny

It's turkey time on the South Fork. This year marks a very big jump in the wild turkey population. Introduced in Montauk in the winter of 1992 and in bits and drabs since then by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation, it took a while for them to really get going. Now they are just about everywhere, and they are almost as common as white-tailed deer.

I live in Noyac and ride to work by as many different roads as possible to my job in East Hampton ten miles away. While working in East Hampton I am in the field about 50 per cent of the time covering the entire town from the Peconic Estuary south to the Atlantic Ocean, from the tip of Montauk Point to the Southampton-East Hampton line. My work carries me along several different highways and streets, both through large undeveloped open-space areas and highly developed areas as Springs and the center of Montauk.

This past September and thus far in October, hardly a day has gone by when I haven't seen groups of turkeys along the shoulders of the roads spread out or in compact groups. The numbers range from two or three to as many as 20. Sometimes the groups are all toms with long feathered beards hanging from their breasts, at other times they are all hens, or hens and almost grown poults, or just poults. Most of the poults are large, but infrequently they are only half-grown, indicating that they were hatched in mid-summer long after the majority of this year's crop left their nests. Perhaps, because browse is so plentiful and there is so much to go around, some turkey females are taking after the some of the numerous does and delivering later in the season.

When the turkeys were first introduced here they were live-trapped in upstate New York. Lately, the Brookhaven National Laboratory site has provided them. In 1992 red foxes were still abundant and it was thought that the turkeys' slow start had to do with the prevalence of foxes in the Montauk area. By the late 1990's foxes had practically fallen off the map and it is

only in the last couple of years that they seem to be making a comeback. Toms and hens are fierce protectors of their young but predators as wary and as big as foxes are not easily dissuaded from taking poults, however they may be guarded.

Apparently, the people are adjusting to the plentiful turkeys, although I still get calls about turkeys harassing children, trying to enter houses through closed glass doors or fighting against them, the way male robins and male cardinals attack windows when maintaining their breeding territories. Let's say there are fewer complaints about turkeys then there are about deer, of which there are many, many.

There is competition between deer and turkeys for food. Turkeys are omnivorous, eating both insects and vegetation, even taking mice and frogs on occasion. Both relish acorns, as do chipmunks, squirrels, white-footed mice and blue jays. Since oaks are the most common trees on the South Fork, in most years there are enough acorns in the fall and winter to go around, in scarce years there is a knock-out, drag-down competition for them. The deer can subsist on evergreens and hardwood buds, especially those that are part of residential landscapes, the turkeys have to tear up the leaf litter long and hard to get by. They literally trash the forest floor to survive.

At the end of the day, turkeys fly up to perch in trees, sometimes on roofs, to spend the night, safe from dogs and foxes. They are much savvier than deer when it comes to crossing roads. They cross in lines, one-by-one at a walking pace, rather than dash out into oncoming traffic as deer are want to do, especially during the rut. If you hit a turkey on the road you either have very poor eyesight or are intentionally trying to kill it.

From the looks of it turkeys after a two-hundred year hiatus will become a staple of Long Island wildlife for centuries to come, i.e., as long as there is a Long Island. Maybe the heath hen—or should I say prairie chicken—will be the next to make it back, scientists do marvelous things with fossil DNA these days.

Gobble, gobble, gobble.



Max Wheat, First Poet Laureate for Nassau County, NY Writes a Children's Book about Three Wise Animals

This is a new read-aloud children's Christmas book written by Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., founder and former editor of *New York Birders*, newsletter of the New York State Ornithological Association.

Like *The Three Wise Men in the Bible*, Enrico the Screech Owl (who does not screech, but trills softly), Blue Scream the Blue Jay and Ferris the Red Fox follow the star to the manger.

Illustrator Alice Melzer, Hicksville, former instructor in Hofstra University's continuing education program, follows the animals with black and white sketches "mountain after mountain/ valley after valley/ icy brook after icy brook...until coming over the top of the last mountain,/ they look down into the last valley/ and see a little town...Bethlehem."

The book is available (\$10+\$3 shipping) from the publisher, Allbook Books, PO Box 562, Selden, NY, 11784 or from Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell St., Freeport, NY 11520.

SALLY NEWBERT



This Red-tailed Hawk is being handled by a volunteer for Volunteers for Wildlife. It is non-releasable bird.

Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo Jamaicensis

Carl Starace

One of the odd things I've learned about this abundant and widespread resident of North America is its Latin name, *Buteo Jamaicensis*. The word, "Buteo", simply means, "a Hawk", but the word, "Jamaicensis", stems from, "Jamaica", the island in the Caribbean where the very first specimen was collected for science.

The Red-tailed is broad in shoulder and of wing. It is Long Island's only year round resident hawk. Here is a bird that is a common breeder across this continent except for northern parts of Alaska and Canada. These northern populations including those of northern New England move south before the

onset of winter. They will return north beginning in late February, some as late as early June. It is a true, "roadside hawk", often perching on low junipers, cedars or fence posts. It has been my experience that many Long Islanders won't know a Grackle from a Titmouse but surely know a Red-tailed. They have seen them often along our roads and highways.

DESCRIPTION: Red-taileds are stocky, with short, wide, rusty red tails, longish wings, (49 inches), dark flatish heads, large bills and white chests, (not all subspecies). There are five subspecies of this bird. Western, Southwestern, Eastern, Krider's, and Harlan's. Their plumages vary quite a bit as you travel through times zones. For instance, Harlan's Red-tailed is an all dark bird with a bare hint of rosy-red blush on its tail. Our adult Eastern Red-tailed has a dark

head, white breast with broad black belly band dividing the underparts of its torso. There is a dark bar on the leading edge of its under wing that contrasts nicely with its pale wing linings. The base of its hooked bill is a dirty yellow with dark tip. The legs are also yellow. The immature bird's belly band is much darker than the adult's, its tail is dark on top, dusky underneath.

BEHAVIOR: Red-taileds are perch hunters that like to sit in the open and survey the ground about them. They will sit for extended periods hoping to pounce on a variety of small mammals, their preferred diet. Phenomenal eyesight allows the bird to see mice, for instance, at great distance. We often see this hawk soaring on the thermal air currents from about mid-morning on. Upon hearing a ruckus from crows, the Red-tailed is sometimes their target for harassment.

FLIGHT AND

VOCALIZATIONS: Soaring birds show wings held in an upsweeping U. Their flight is slow, steady, with little rocking motion. In hunting mode the bird will face into the wind, tighten its wings back and hold itself motionless in the air. This maneuver is referred to as, "kiting". But hovering, as Kestrels are known to do frequently, is seldom used by a Red-tailed. The Red-tailed's call is a very shrill and raspy two note whistle that falls in pitch and intensity, CHEEEEEEEEEW. There is also a short scream, sometimes repeated and a young bird sometimes whistles a PWEEEEEE PWEEEEEE.

*Good Autumn Birding to you all,
Carl Starace*



Christmas Bird Counts & Winter Waterfowl Censuses John McNeil

As the holiday season approaches, it is once again time to think about the winter bird counts. Each year, 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 NY Ornithological Association. Dates and compilers for the counts are listed below. If you would like to participate as either 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 for the count(s). A fee will be collected from all observers over 18, to defray the cost of compiling the data and publishing for the CBC results. There is no fee to participate in the Waterfowl Censuses. Usually the compilers are very flexible and participants can bird with the group until they need to go. So...please do not hesitate to ask if you can participate.

All help is welcome.

Experienced birders are needed for each of the counts, but beginners are most welcome. If you are not an experienced birder, field parties who are familiar with the territory will help you learn your way around. We hope that new observers will find the counts to be as exciting as experienced birders find them to be, and that they will continue to participate in the future. This is the way we can develop an adequate pool of skilled, committed observers to continue the tradition.

Feeder watchers who live within the count circle are needed to provide additional coverage by recording the number of individuals and the variety of 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). How-

ever, 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 some combination of walking and driving, but bicycles, boats, motorcycles, and other modes of transportation may also be used.

The Winter Waterfowl Censuses have been compiled throughout the state of New York 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.

Below are the people to contact to join the CBC and the Waterfowl Census.

Count	Date	Compiler	Contact Information
Quogue to Water Mill CBC	Saturday, Dec. 17th	Steve Biasetti	Hm 874.4684 / Wk 765.6450 x205 biafamily@optonline.net sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org
Montauk CBC	Saturday, Dec. 17th	Hugh McGuinness	725.6037 / cell 631.697.2099 hmcguinness@ross.org
Sagaponack CBC	Sunday, Dec. 18th	Hugh McGuinness	725.6037 / cell 631.697.2099 hmcguinness@ross.org
Central Suffolk CBC	Tuesday, Dec. 27th	Eileen Schwinn	516.662.7751 beachmed@optonline.net
Orient CBC	Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011	MaryLaura Lamont	722.5542 elamont@optonline.net
Smith Point to Shinnecock Inlet Census	Sat., Jan. 14 to 21, 2012	Jay Kuhlman	878.4461 sjkuhlman@aol.com
Yaphank to Peconic Bay Census	Midweek of Jan. 16 to 20	John McNeil	281.2623 jpmcneil@verizon.net
Montauk to Amagansett Census	Contact Coordinator	Hugh McGuinness	725.6037 / cell 631.697.2099 hmcguinness@ross.org
Reeves Bay to Noyack Bay	Midweek of Jan. 16 to 20	John McNeil	281.2623 jpmcneil@verizon.net
Fresh Pond to Sag Harbor	Midweek of Jan. 16 to 20	John McNeil	281.2623 jpmcneil@verizon.net

Feeder Survey

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

Survey Dates:

Sun., Nov. 6 to Sun., Nov. 13

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

- _____ 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 (pigeon)
- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Other _____

Survey Dates:

Sun., Dec. 4 to Sun., Dec. 11

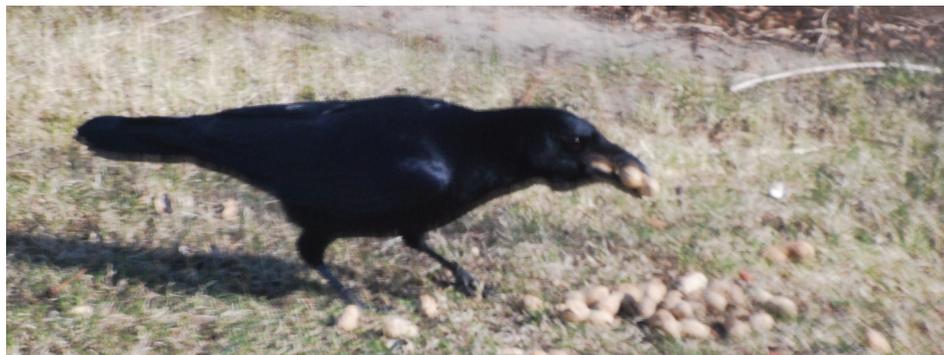
Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

- _____ Mourning Dove
- _____ Northern Cardinal
- _____ Blue Jay
- _____ House Finch
- _____ Black-capped Chickadee
- _____ Tufted Titmouse
- _____ Downy Woodpecker
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- _____ Song Sparrow
- _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- _____ American Crow
- _____ European Starling
- _____ Common Grackle
- _____ Carolina Wren
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- _____ Common Flicker
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- _____ American Robin
- _____ Brown-headed Cowbird
- _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- _____ Rock Dove (pigeon)
- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Other _____



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This is a

Renewal New Membership

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City/State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Please be sure to include your email. You will receive an email confirmation, a pdf of the first newsletter and occasional important updates and program updates. Although we try not to cancel or change event dates and times, it does happen. This list is not shared.

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eliasosprey@optonline.net

Mark Your Calendars

Sat., November 2

Pick up pre-ordered bird seed at Quogue Wildlife Refuge from 9 am to 3 pm

Sat., November 5

Nature Walk Smith Point County Park
Carl Starace, leader (see page 3)

Mon., November 7

Nature Program
Motmots for Breakfast: Costa Rican Birding (see page 1)

Sat, November 12

Nature Walk Jones Beach State Park & Point Lookout
John McNeil, leader (see page 3)

Sat., November 19

Nature Walk: Jamesport State Park & Hallockville Farm Fields
MaryLaura Lamonte, leader (see page 3)

Sun., November 20

Nature Walk: Old Mastic Autumn Bird Walk, William Floyd Estate
MaryLaura Lamonte leader (see page 3)

Sat., November 26

Nature Walk: Theodore Roosevelt County Park Bird Walk
Carl Starace, leader (see page 3)

Sat., December 3

Nature Walk: Shinnecock County Park Bird Walk
Carl Starace, leader (see page 3)

Mon., December 5

Nature Program: Tanzania Extravaganza! (see page 1)

Sat., January 7, 2012

Nature Walk Lakes Around Patchogue
John McNeil, leader (see page 3)

There is no meeting scheduled for January. We hope you will join one of the Christmas Bird Counts, details are on page 9. Contact the leaders directly to participate.

If there are any changes in programming, it will be announced on the website and on Facebook.
If you are on our email list you will receive an email reminders and any last minute program changes.
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