



The OSPREY

July/August — Vol. XXXVII No. 4

What's in Ohio in the Spring? WARBLERS!

Eileen Schwinn

When Springtime rolls around, many dream of blooming flowers, romantic Paris, and warming, sunny days ahead. Birders dream of WARBLERS! And a place I need no longer dream about is OHIO in the Springtime! This past May, I was invited to join four ELIAS friends on a spectacular road trip — well, for them it was a road trip. I flew the friendly skies of SouthWest Airline to Cleveland, Ohio, where I rented a car and drove a little over an hour to the west, heading to Port Clinton, and the Entryway to Magee Marsh to attend what has been called *The Biggest Week in American Birding!* Located on the southern shore of Lake Erie, this board-walked park encompasses the perfect habitat for migrating birds to stop and “fuel up” before heading north, across the lake to Point Pelee, Canada, and their summer breeding grounds.

Continued on page 4



DIANNE TAGGERT

Magee Marsh is a noted stop over for a great variety of warblers migrating to the Boreal Woods of Canada. It is a stop before crossing Lake Erie. Above, a beautiful Cape May Warbler. and, right, a striking Prothonotary Warbler.



DIANNE TAGGERT

Nature Walks/Field Trips John McNeil

Saturday, July 14 @ 8:00 AM

Birding along Dune Road from Shinnecock Inlet to Pikes Beach

Trip Leader: Eileen Schwinn

The early fall arrivals of shorebirds should be passing our area at this time as these migrants work their way south. Meet Eileen Schwinn, the trip leader, at 8:00 am on the west side parking lot of Shinnecock Inlet in HAMPTON BAYS. Then we will drive along Dune Road heading west, stopping at various birding locations to see what SPECIES might be feeding on the tidal mud flats and GRASSY MARSHLAND. We will end up at Pikes Beach just after noon (+/- an hour) at low tide. On this field trip, ELIAS will provide Town of Southampton temporary Parking Passes for those who need them. Please contact your trip leader at 516.662.7751 for more information.

Sat., August 25 @ 7:30 AM (Sharp)

The Islands of Moriches Inlet

Trip Leader: Eileen Schwinn

This trip is always a big hit with our members. So...let's catch a wave of shorebirds as they pass our area on their migration. We will have a low tide for this morning walk. Meet at the parking lot of Cupsoque Beach at 7:30 AM sharp!! If you arrive after 8 am you will have to pay a parking FEE. We will spend the morning birding the BAYSIDE SHORELINE AND ISLAND. Be prepared to get wet as we will be wading across SHALLOW water to the islands. Please wear appropriate foot wear, bathing suits and/or shorts that can get wet. Don't forget to bring sunscreen and head gear. You WILL BE AT THE BEACH.

Please contact your trip leader Eileen Schwinn at 516.662.775 if you need more information.

Nature Programs/Meetings

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

Bob Adamo, Interim Program Chair

Monday, July 2 beginning at 7:15 pm

By the Light of the Silvery Moon...

We will explore Quogue Wildlife Refuge on the night before the full moon. We will listen for the night sounds, hoping for owls, and perhaps a Whip-or-will or Chuck Wills Window or maybe a glimpse of one of the secretive flying squirrels. The moon light should light the way as we see what we can find. There will be several QWR board members and ELIAS leaders. Come join the fun.

Saturday, August 4 beginning at 8:00 am

SoFo and ELIAS team up for a Mid-Summer Morning Walk

We are turning the August meeting upside down, it is not at night, but at 8 am in the morning, it is not at Quogue, but at SoFo in Bridgehampton. We hope this will be a nice change for some of our members who live *out east*. For the members who regularly attend the meetings, it should be a nice change of pace. We will meet at the South Fork Natural History Museum in Bridgehampton and explore the Vineyard field, a large field behind the Museum with ponds and woods. The Museum has encouraged native plants, set up Bluebird and Purple Martin houses and encourages wildlife. We hope to catch sight of recently fledged birds and their parents, before our local breeding birds begin their journey south. The walk will be led by Eric Salzman, noted composer, author, editor and Birder Supreme. ELIAS will make a short presentation. ELIAS, SoFo members and the public are invited. Light refreshments will be served.

The South Fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center (SoFo) is located in the hamlet of Bridgehampton at 377 Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike.

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or sea turtle**

Members Corner

John McNeil

When I returned home from vacation, I had several e-mails and notes from our membership about incorrect expiration date that were printed on their most recent issue of our newsletter.

I personally do not print the labels since this has become a very large task, so...we have decided to let the printer check my mailing database for correctness and combine the columns of the membership and imprint the mailing address to the newsletter. By letting him do it, it really saves us money in the long run since the post office is really getting picky in how the bulk mail is sorted into postal districts and since we only have a small mailing compared to bulk mailers, it makes sense to have someone with extensive knowledge in that field to do our mailing. Well... to make a long story short, I found out after I have returned home this past month that the expiration dates were incorrectly inserted into each members mailing address. I telephoned the printer to inquire and he indicated something happened in the process and when he noticed it, it was too late. So...he had to let it go as is, I will hope this does not happen again.

Rest assured, my database is correct with your correct expiration date, I double checked this when I read your notes and e-mailed to make sure nothing happens.

I apologize for any misunderstanding this might have caused. If you have any other membership questions, please write or email me.

John McNeil
Membership Chair

Get Involved

**Would you like to submit
an article or a photo?**

**We would like
to hear from you.**

Contact:

eliasosprey@optonline.net

NYSOA Boreal Bird Workshop & Whiteface Mountain Field Trip July 7-8, 2012

**Kathryn Schneider,
NYSOA Publicity Chair**

The New York State Ornithological Association is offering a boreal bird workshop and field trip in Wilmington, New York on the weekend of July 7-8, 2012. On Saturday, Adirondack bird experts John and Pat Thaxton will give a presentation entitled *The Usual Suspects: A Rogue's Gallery of Adirondack Boreal Specialties*. (Read more about the work of John Thaxton at <http://www.johnthaxton.com>). The workshop, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center, 977 Springfield Road, Wilmington, New York 12297. Located on 50 acres along the West Branch of the Ausable River, the Center includes a one mile educational hiking trail and public fishing access site. Owners Wendy and Steve Hall will give a presentation and tour of the facility at 3:00 pm on Saturday, July 7th. Directions to the Center from Wilmington can be found at: <http://mapq.st/jsgTIP>

John and Pat will lead the Sunday morning field trip to Whiteface beginning at 7:30 a.m. The field trip is limited to 20 participants. Field trip attendees must preregister for the field trip by calling Kathy Schneider at (518) 799-3457 or emailing her at fallline@nycap.rr.com. We will be allowed to use the Memorial Highway before it opens to the public but participants will still have to pay the toll \$10/driver and vehicle and \$6/passenger. The field trip to Whiteface will conclude around noon, to allow participants time to visit other Adirondack birding sites.

NYSOA has negotiated discounted lodging at the Grandview Motel in Wilmington. The motel is offering a group discounted rate of \$89 for one night and \$79 for a second night. To get the discounted rate simply call the motel at (518) 946-2209 and give them the name of the field trip organizer, Kathy Schneider, and the group, NYSOA. Please make your reservation as soon as possible summer is a busy time in the Adirondacks.

SAVE THE DATE for the ELIAS Annual Dinner on October 17, 2012

The get together will be at Casa Basso in Westhampton
We will meet behind the two swordsmen that guard the
entrance on Montauk Highway

Watch for more details in the
August/September issue of *The Osprey*.

Invitations will go out just after Labor Day.

Our speaker will be Pam Salaway, a published author and
engaging storyteller. Pam will share the deeply personal
experiences that brought her to birding as well as some of
lighter moments that followed.

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LINDA SULLIVAN

Black & White Warbler



EILEEN SCHWINN

What's in Ohio in the Spring? *continued from page 1*

We arrived mid-way through a magnificent birding festival, which was attended by tens of thousands of birders and photographers. Nesting Prothonotary, Mourning, Hooded, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, as well as migrating Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, and Blackburnian Warblers added to the Eye Candy! Oh, and the Kirtland's Warbler.

WHAT??? Yes, arriving a week or two earlier than predicted, on our third day of birding, the word spread like wild fire along the boardwalk - A BUNCH OF AMISH KIDS FOUND A KIRTLAND'S!! Where?? Just follow the crowd! Hundreds dropped the bird they were watching to march, army-ant style, orderly and quiet — but QUICKLY — to the beach and shoreline berm. Cell phones were calling cell phones — the word was out — hope it stays, it's a lifer, gotta see that bird, hope we get there in time, hope we can find it..... **AND WE DID!** Birders doing what birders do — making sure EVERYONE got on the bird. A shy little female, high enough in a tree for the ador-

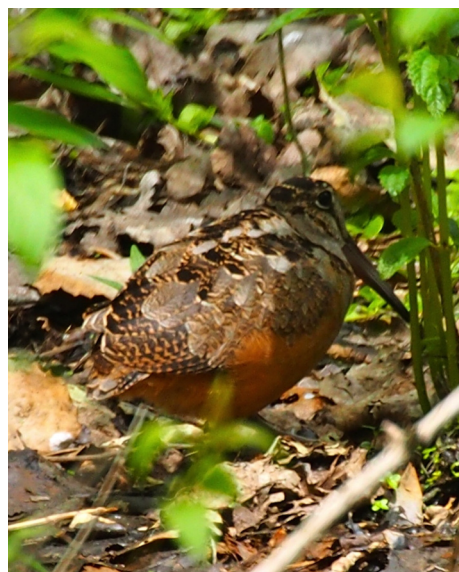
ing throng to get excellent, extended views, popping in and out of the leafed-out tree, but showing herself well enough for us to get deeply satisfying views — no "BVD" (Better View Desired) in the little lifer log book! We, as all the others, got our good looks, then stepped back to let others up front to experience the thrill. A real happening — like Woodstock but without the rain or music (other than the magnificent bird calls all day from sunrise to sunset...)

Other birds made the trip special — three American Woodcock a few dozen feet away, just poking and walking about. Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl (the gray kind, not



DIANNE TAGGERT

The Magee Marsh Girls: Eileen Schwinn, Linda Sullivan, Dianne Taggart, Susan Benson and Chris McCormick all made the trip to the Biggest Week in American Birding.



American Woodcock



EILEEN SCHWINN

Richard Crossley, Author, at the Magee Marsh Nature Center for a book signing.

DIANNE TAGGERT



A cavity nester, the wren checks out a possible nest site.

the red Long Island resident), daytime, sleeping Whip-poor-will, Upland Sandpipers, Lincoln and White-crowned Sparrows — all nearly close enough to touch! Our first night there, while arriving at the hotel after a long day of birding, we swore we heard American Woodcock, pneening nearby. How could that be? Middle of a down-town?? No open fields nearby? Too tired to look (you KNOW it had to have been a long day if we were too beat to head out to find the source). Mystery solved on our last night — arriving after 9 pm, we again heard the *pneening*, and looking up, two Common Nighthawks were grabbing bugs attracted by the exterior hotel lighting! Flying in unison, they were vocalizing, sounding just like Woodcocks! They continued to be heard through the night, and again, just before dawn on the

DIANNE TAGGERT



Chestnut-sided warbler

last day! Super nice birds saying Good-bye, and Thank you for visiting! Final tally — 116 species, 26 of them warblers, great memories spent with good birds and even better friends. Ah, *Springtime in Ohio* - who would have thought it?

DIANNE TAGGERT



Blackburnian Warbler

EILEEN SCHWINN



Eileen's travel gnome worked hard on this trip but gave everyone good views of the Kirkland Warbler.

EILEEN SCHWINN



DIANNE TAGGERT



Wood Thrush

EILEEN SCHWINN



Watch the birdie!

EILEEN SCHWINN



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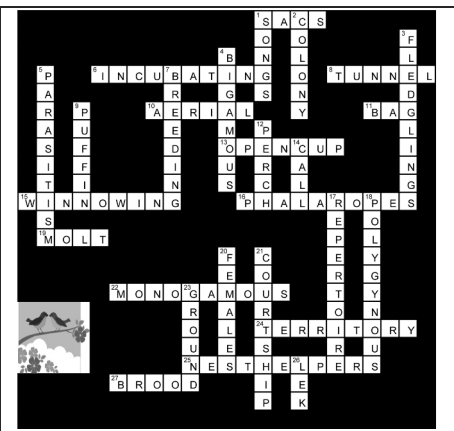
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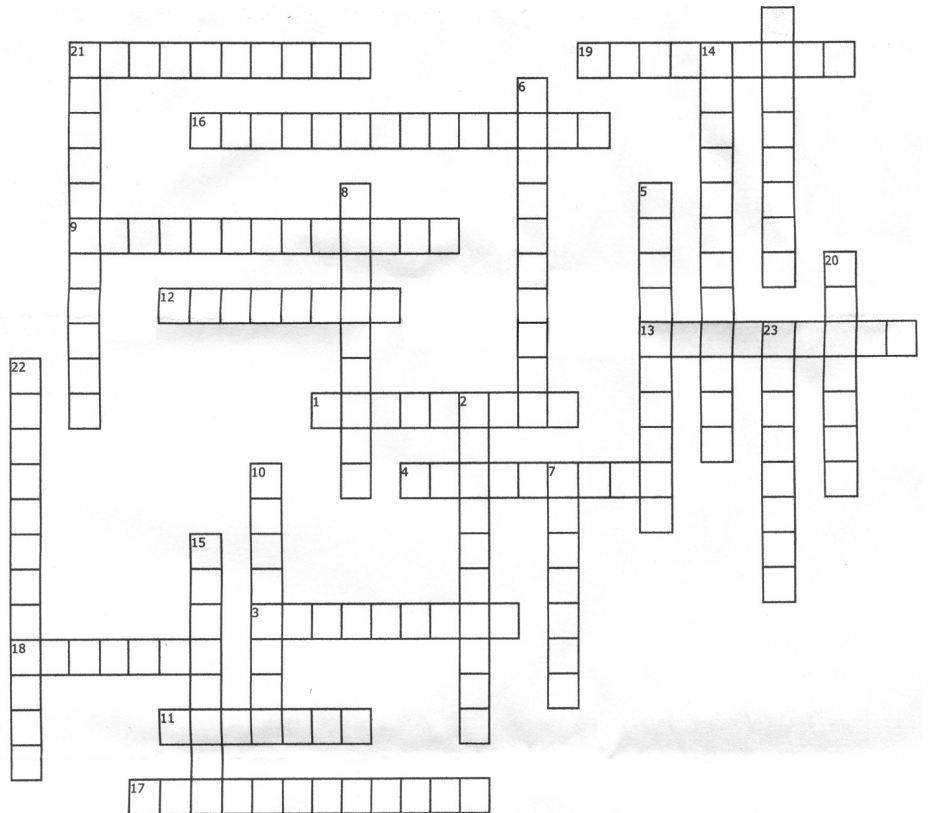
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Answers to last issue's puzzle

Breeding & Nesting



Avian Creatures by Guest Contributor, Don Spates



Across

- 1. Celtic Great
- 3. Untrue comment about an eating habit
- 4. Famous name in music, or an end zone dance
- 9. Baby birds
- 12. Hitchcock hit
- 16. May this fly up your snoot
- 17. Bald Eagle designation
- 18. Sesame Street hero
- 19. Prisoners
- 21. If you have this, it's worth twice that

Down

- 2. Jazz great Charlie
- 5. Internet app phnom
- 6. Place for a snack for them
- 7. To track or follow
- 8. Someone lacking mental power
- 10. NYC dance hall
- 14. Broadway play satirizing Elvis era
- 15. Bird watchers tally
- 20. Most famous Alcatraz inmate
- 21. ID tagging, not a musical group
- 22. Early lesson about sex
- 23. Feather prison
- 24. Avian areas



Common Raven

Corvus Corax

Carl Starace

The word Raven comes from the Anglo Saxon term, *Hraefn*. The word, *Corax*, derives from the Greek, *a croaker*, imitative of the Raven's call. All around the world the Raven has been the subject of many myths, songs, fables, essays and poems. Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven" is probably the most famous and revered.

Description: The Raven is longer in its head, tail and wings than the Common Crow. Its wing length even exceeds the Red-tailed Hawk. Its black bill is long and daggerlike. The throat has bristly tufts of feathers which are apparent when the bird is perched. The sexes are alike, the female is somewhat smaller. The Raven's all black coloration has a metallic luster of purple and a greenish gloss on its wings.

Distribution: In the United States it is found from the Rocky Mountains westward, (including Alaska), along the Northern tier of states, throughout New England, in New York's Adirondacks/Catskills and south through the Appalachians into Georgia. Within the last few years a handful have taken up residence even here on our island. The Ravens habitat ranges from mountain to desert, even tundra.

Flight: This is a strong, graceful, magnificent flyer. This bird will alternately flap, then glide, (unlike Crows). It may hover like the American Kestrel, circle

like our Red-tailed Hawk and often vocalizes as it glides. They can be very acrobatic and playful in flight, sometimes striking each others wings and turning on their backs. One was photographed flying upside down for close to half a mile.

Behavior: Ravens hop or strut and take one or two hops before taking wing. They will perch on utility poles, tree limbs, rocky ledges even homeowners' roofs. This bird is both a predator and a supreme scavenger, eating all manner of road-kill and fresh-kill other predators leave behind. It will dine on amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals. Ever the opportunist, the Raven will also eat grains, worms, shellfish, eggs and the young of seabirds and songbirds. Seasonally it will eat many insects in spring and luscious berries in fall. Remarkable instances of problem solving have been found in this species by researchers who have deemed the Raven a highly intelligent creature. For those who wish to learn more about the Raven I highly recommend two books by Bernd Heinrich *Ravens in Winter*, and *The Mind of the Raven*".

Vocalization: Just this week as I stood on my step ladder reglazing a customers window I heard the distinctively harsh, *raah, raah* of a Raven. I turned just in time to see it pass over the house with a Common Grackle in close pursuit. Another sound is a lower in volume gurgle.

Where to Look: The first confirmed nests of Ravens have been found these past two seasons in Brooklyn and downtown Hampton Bays, on Water Authority property directly south of the train station. There have been a fair number of sightings in the Calverton, EPCAL, Manorville and Rocky Point as well. One was seen on a cold winters day by a good friend of mine perched on a fence within the parking lot of the Quogue Beach Club. They have arrived.

Good Summer Birding to you all
Carl Starace

Kaler's Pond

Jay Kuhlman

The summer **Audubon Adventures** will start Thursday July 12 and continue until Friday August 10. The program is each Thursday and Friday morning during that period at the Kaler's Pond Nature Center.

The summer program educator is Derek Gerardi. He is a Stony Brook graduate with a major in biology with a concentration on the environment.

For the public the center is open now and will be open until fall. Please go to our web site for details of programs.

We were so pleased that 75 Scouts, both boys and girls, and their parents helped during our spring cleanup.

We also had 60 people attend the nature program with the birds of prey and reptiles from Teddy Roosevelt Sanctuary.



**Decals are here.
Ask at the next
meeting.**

MAY HIGHLIGHTS: Nine trips scheduled, One Opening



(Left) At the William Floyd Estate, the group included some high school students. (Right) At Terrell River County Park.

Sally Newbert

Although both Wednesday warbler walks were rained out, most others went off as planned. **SAT. MAY 12** at the height of the migration the group that met at the William Floyd Estate included some high school students from East Islip. The first bird we encountered was the very noisy Red-eyed Vireo, right in the parking lot. (Do they always have the best birds?) At the edges of the field near the house a Blue-wing warbler was calling its bee-buzz call. Yellow Warbler, a fairly dependable species at the Estate was also more easily heard than seen. We were fortunate to find a Yellow-crowned Night Heron hunting and eating a crab on the mud flats just as we approached Home Creek. It is certainly a memorable species and one that is not encountered often. At the marsh pond we found a Great Egret, Yellow Legs and many peeps. As we reentered the woods we had some good looks at a Northern Parula feeding a little above eye-level. We also spotted a Blackburnian. Magnolia, Black-throated Blue and Pine Warbler, an Ovenbird was surprising high in the tree.



A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was crabbing on Home Creek at the William Floyd Estate.



(ELIAS Exhibit at the Opening Day of Wertheim Wildlife Refuge. The Long-eared Owl was next to our exhibit.



ON MAY 19 we played our part in the Grand Opening Celebration at the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley. We had movies playing (*The Big Year* and *Winged Migration*), birds chirping on an ipod, a game for the kids to play and win stickers, tattoos or bookmarks. We sold hats, stickers and memberships. We gave out newsletters and talked to the visitors. According to the counts from U.S. Fish and Wildlife over 800 people attended. We were lucky enough to share our display space with 2 animal rehab groups who brought live birds. We could admire an Amer-

On SUNDAY, MAY 13 a group of nine explored Terrell River County Park. We were greeted by great views of an Indigo Bunting who flew onto a low branch of a leafless tree not far off the path. We meandered down the path listening for warbler songs. We frequently heard the bee buzz of the Blue-winged Warbler. When we reached the spots where you could overlook the Terrell River it was a treat to see Glossy Ibis across the river like looking at an ancient Egyptian frieze. Then on the spit of land visible from the shore we found Black Skimmer. Some were flying and fishing. What a nice thing to see.



At the new Hallock State Park the birds almost posed for Myron Mendelson. (Left to right) Wood Pewee, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler are all nesters at the new park.

Such a treat to see the ancient profile of the Glossy Ibis.



plus Air Time on WPPB (88.3)



At Indian Point on the William Floyd Estate in Old Mastic.

ican Kestrel and a Screech Owl on one side and a Long-eared Owl on the other, it made the day fly by. The politicians had their say at noon with Lee Zeldin from the New York State Senate attending. Sweetbriar Nature Center presented a program about birds-of-prey later in the afternoon. Many thanks to our volunteers Suzi Stewart, Rosemary Valente and Mary Beth Wilson.

Also on **MAY 19TH** MaryLaura Lamont led a trip to Hallockville and the new Jamesport State Park. MaryLaura said the birds almost posed for them and Myron Mendelson, new lens in hand, sent in some wonderful pictures.



SUNDAY MAY 20TH a group again visited the William Floyd Estate. MaryLaura immediately pointed out that the main migration, we had experienced earlier in May, had passed. So we would be looking for nesting birds which included the White-eyed Vireo. MaryLaura does a great job birding by ear, we all were listening when the Crows brought our attention to a fox kit, then at least four Osprey were calling as they soared overhead near the house. We listened for the Great-crested

Flycatcher at the edge of the woods and the Tufted Titmouse. Neither Kingfisher or Yellow-crowned Night Heron were at Home Creek. We did come on to a family of Carolina Wrens with parents and babies all calling from low in the shrubs. There was a fairly constant chorus from the Rufous-sided Towhees. The Floyd Estate is one of the few places the Osprey have built a nest in a tree, the parents were protective of the nest and soared on constant guard above the nest. Yellow warblers were busy in the same area. A little further along we listened to the Pine Warbler high in the pines, but could not find him.

THURSDAY, MAY 31 four volunteers, Byron Young, ELIAS VP, Chris Schmitt, ELIAS Recording Secretary, Suzi Stewart, a volunteer and Sally Newbert, *Osprey* editor went to the studios of WPPB (88.3 FM) in Southampton to answer phones for their fundraising drive. Byron and Sally were interviewed by Brian Cosgrove in the mid afternoon. WPPB is the NPR station for the East End of LI and certainly deserves our support.



Byron Young and Sally Newbert being interviewed by Brian Cosgrove on the Afternoon Ramble.

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Chris, Suzi and Sally answer the phones, what do you know, they all rang at the same time.

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Facebook
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Breeding Bird Count

Eastport to East Moriches

Sally Newbert

The day begins early when you do the Breeding Bird count. It is the summer version of The Christmas Bird Count and has been done by Eastern Long Island Audubon since 1975. Four of us took on the task. I accompanied Gigi Spates who led this group in the Eastport to East Moriches sector. We were joined by Suzi Stewart and Susan Benson. We were all surprised at the south side of Eastport Pond, our first stop. Hidden behind a group of Mallards, in the shadows, was a male Wood Duck. It was either molting or was a young duck, but the head was perfect Wood Duck the rest mottled. We were also surprised to see a male Hooded Merganser and a pair of Ruddy Ducks. Why hadn't they left with the rest of their flocks? On the large part of the pond on the north side of Montauk Highway was a Lesser Scaup. None of us could figure out why any of the three species would still be here. Ah, another birding mystery.

Our next stop was the area in front of Eastport Feed, the stop for Pigeons, oh excuse me, Rock Doves. To my surprise the area was also filled with swallows. Beginning the discussion of how to tell Barn Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts apart, we proceeded down the railroad tracks to a small bridge overlooking the same creek we had been looking at from Montauk Highway. When you get to the bridge and look south, it is a beautiful tranquil way to overlook the inlet and enjoy the terns diving, and the Red-wings singing from a reed-filled field. We made it both ways with no trains. *Phew!* Gigi reminded us



Suzi Stewart makes it through the field. Susan Benson and Gigi Spates hunt for the Indigo Bunting.



that the trains do not extend far beyond the width of tracks, so there is always room to get out of the way. Unfortunately it seems there is always something that did not get out of the way and is dead on the tracks, this time it was an opossum and a large bird, probably a gull.

At Pepperidge Lake we continued the discussion about the swallows, watching for the stubbier tails on the Rough-winged Swallow and the more forked tail of the Barn Swallow and the flying cigar shape of the Chimney Swift. All were flying over the pond. Two Black-crowned Night Heron and a Green Heron were also at the pond. After some estimates of numbers and duck counting, a female Wood Duck and her large brood came out. More Wood Ducks than I have ever seen in a day.

It was on to the beaches near the condos at Hart's Cove. A Skimmer made an appearance. Gigi and Susan went off through the reeds and came up with some good finds including some Glossy Ibis and an immature Bald Eagle. Just before lunch we checked out the area by the Coast Guard Station, and heard the distinctive *fitz-bew* of the Willow Flycatcher.

After lunch we headed down to the bay on Atlantic Avenue where there was a Snowy Egret and a juvenile Willet in the low marsh grass. Then to look over the bay by Silly Lilly Fishing Station where we were able use the scope on what I would call Tern Island. Quite a few nesting Common Terns were counted.

On our last stop, along Bay Avenue, paralleling Terrell River, we walked through an over grown field almost, but not quite, down to the water. Later, driving slowly

along, we heard a song no one recognized. We pulled over to listen. It was driving Susan Benson crazy, when it finally came to her INDIGO BUNTING. It was in the dense foliage. We played the song on iphone app to be sure that was what it was, but could not draw it out. While we were attempting to find it, a truck driver



Last bird of the day, a Yellow Warbler sings his heart out.

pulled over and told us his work place had a place to park and a way to get down to the river. We took him up on it, walked to the river, through the waist high weeds, and higher phragmites. It gave us a view of over 40 swans. But were they in our territory or do they count in the next territory? We will have to let others decide that. As we were preparing to go, one of the fellows started up a conversation about cameras and lenses. Turns out it was Gil Raynor's son! I have heard about Gil for all the years I have been birding out here. Gigi and Susan knew Gil who was a mentor to so many east end birder. We were all thrilled to meet a son of east end birding royalty.

As the day ended we had at 64 species on the list, and over 1,000 (1,056 to be exact) birds counted.

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Mark Your Calendars

Monday, July 2
Meet at 7:15 pm

Nature Program (see page 2)

By the Light of the Silvery Moon...

A walk around Quogue Wildlife Refuge
at Quogue Wildlife Refuge, Old Country Road in Quogue.

Saturday, July 14
Meet at 8 am

Nature Walk (see page 1)

Birding Along Dune Road from Shinnecock Inlet to Pikes Beach
Eileen Schwinn, Leader

Saturday, August 4
Meet at 8 am

Nature Program (see page 2)

**SoFo (South Fork Natural History Museum and ELIAS team up
for this month's meeting.) It's at 8 am at SOFO.**

Saturday, August 25
Meet at 7:30 am

Nature Walk (see page 1)

The Islands of Moriches Inlet, Eileen Schwinn, Leader

All programs are free and open to all.

EASTERN LONG ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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