



The OSPREY

March/April—Vol. XXXVIII No. 2



A Northern Harrier was still hunting at EPCAL. Dependent on mice and voles will they be able to survive the junked cars?

Sandy Cars

Sally Newbert

It's sad when our newsletter that usually celebrates the beauty, birds and wild areas of Long Island instead has pictures of cars on the cover. Lots of cars, all sorts of cars all parked at EPCAL. I drove over the last week of January to see it for myself. The sheer volume is surprising. My first reaction was horror that the cars are parked everywhere. All the runways are full, the sky diving school, gone. A few cars are up to their hubcaps in mud. This is where the Short-eared Owls wintered a few years ago. Frequently Kestrels, Meadowlarks, Bluebirds and Grasshopper Sparrows (a threatened species) could be seen here. I did spot two Northern Harriers that were still hunting along the grassy borders. When Eileen Schwinn visited, she spotted a beautiful Ring-necked Pheasant, see page 2.

On the way home I began thinking about the power this storm had to damage so many cars. Should we be happy to help the victims of Sandy and have these damaged cars stored here? Are we being selfish? Or are we genuinely concerned that all these cars parked on top of an aquifer that supplies Long Island's drinking water is not good. My own feeling is that the politicians should not make Suffolk County land a garbage dump and that we should all be holding them responsible.

Dick Amper the Executive Director at the

The runway that was used by the sky diving school now filled with damaged cars. (right)



Pine Barrens Society, a non-profit environmental organization focusing on water protection is debating taking legal action through the office of New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

"All of Long Island's drinking water comes from aquifers located beneath the Island." said Mr. Amper. The state legislature designated eight Special Groundwater Protection Areas including the Pine Barrens to allow rainwater to recharge the aquifers without picking up contaminants from human activity on the surface.

Dozens of environmental and civic leaders have complained to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Pine Barrens Commission that fluids from some 30,000 Sandy-wrecked cars will contaminate drinking water at Calverton and other Pine Barrens sites. They fear gasoline, oil, antifreeze and lubricants along with the interaction of salt water on auto parts will contaminate the nation's first federally-dedicated Sole Source Aquifer on which Long Islanders depend for their drinking water.

The Pine Barrens Commission may limit the area where enforcement will be called



Despite claims that the cars would be stored on the asphalt where leaking fluids might be contained this group is up to their hubcaps in heavily rutted mud.

for, to only the Core Preservation Area of the Pine Barrens – about 55,000 acres. The 45,000 additional acres of the Pine Barrens, known as the Compatible Growth Area may be excluded because The Town of Riverhead has a seat on the Commission and also a \$2 million contract to store 15,000 cars in the Pine Barrens."

"Superstorm Sandy is teaching Long Island a lot," said Richard Amper, "We've learned that there exists no organized effort to respond to threats to the Pine Barrens, such as the "Sandy Cars." What isn't new is the impact of money and politics."



Please keep your membership current!
Check the date on the mailing panel for your expiration date.

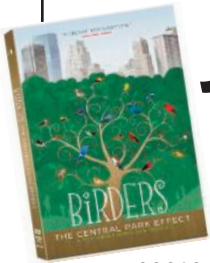
Nature Programs/ Meetings

Monday night meetings are held at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. The programs are free and open to the public.

Bob Adamo, Interim Program Chair

**Monday, March 4, 2013
beginning at 7:15 pm**

The Central Park Effect



Jeffrey Kimball's one-hour documentary about the birds and birders of Central Park was such a success at its premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival in March

of 2012 that HBO bought the rights to show it on television beginning in July. This evening offers a chance to watch it with other birders. Enjoy the close-up and unobstructed views of 116 species of birds, including twenty-two species of warblers. It will give us a chance to remember and celebrate the life and legacy of Starr Saphir the legendary Central Park birder who recently died of breast cancer.

**Monday, April 1, 2013
beginning at 7:15 pm**

Bright Memories of Sunny Sicily

Sicily, like Hawaii and the Galapagos Islands, is a destination that everyone should experience. Make sure you put this on your bucket list. It is just that beautiful. My wife and I, and two friends were captivated by this enchanting island. The landscapes, the history, the culture, people, orchids, food and, of course, the climate all come together and leave visitors with exciting memories.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Observations

Byron Young, ELIAS President

After reading about the Ross's Goose in Riverhead on Merritt's Pond I decided to see if I could add this bird to my New York and Life list of birds. I do not usually chase rare birds unless they are relatively close by. The reason for that is that I know that our wild creatures have a mind of their own and a routine that may not match up with mine. It is very much like chasing fishing reports, which I do way too often.

Anyway, I left home on the cloudy foggy morning of January 30 heading for Riverhead to run some errands and to search for the Ross's Goose. After completing my errands around 11:30 am (not necessarily a good hour) I headed for Ostrander Avenue in search of my quarry. One can peek out onto Merritt's Pond from the street. My first observation was the very large number of Canada geese present on the pond in the middle of the day, unusual.

I was able to slow down and see onto the pond from the street and quickly spotted a brilliant white goose in the massive flock of Canada geese, my first Ross's goose. This made the trip well worthwhile. I searched around the pond for a better vantage point unfortunately none existed, though I did get to view flights of Canada geese arriving on the already crowded pond. It seemed unusual that so many geese were coming onto this body of water during the middle of the day. There was no way I could begin to count the number of Canada geese on the pond, but there must have been several thousand geese on the pond. They were packed so tightly that new flights of geese had to make a fuss to get landing permission from the geese on the pond.

I wondered what would cause the Canada geese to leave feeding grounds during the middle of the day like that. It occurred to me later in the day as the weather front overtook Long Island that these Canada geese may have been moving to a protected spot in advance of the high winds and front that buffeted Long Island on the night of January 30.

My trip left me with a new bird added to my Life List and a new observation to ponder. Is this an example of warbler fallouts during a spring storm front or a fall flight of raptors on a strong Northwest wind? Maybe, I will need to pay closer attention to the weather reports in conjunction with my birding activities. Then again that may take all of the fun out of making new observations and wondering what I just witnessed.

Good Birding.



Ring-necked Pheasant at EPCAL, Calverton. In spite of thousand and thousands of condemned autos and trucks now in "storage" at the last remaining LI Grasslands, this beautiful bird was seen right along the main road leading to the southern entrance of the former Grumman facility.

Eileen Schwinn

The Dilemma of Wind Turbines

Larry Penny

There are a lot of paradoxical dilemmas that arise when one tries to be a good naturalist, a good environmentalist, animal lover and a carbon-footprint reducer simultaneously. For example, I love animals, but do I like the idea of spaying feral cats and putting them back in the wild? No. I know that fire is important to the survival and thriving of certain plant communities such as pine barrens, but I also know that forest fires kill a lot of slow moving animals such as turtles, snakes and salamanders. Should I then be for controlled burns on large tracts of land in the interest of flora but to the detriment of fauna?

One of the dilemmas that has me twisting and turning lately is the ecofriendly push to create offshore wind farms. I am solidly for dramatically reducing carbon emissions and thereby mitigating some of the anticipated climate change disasters, but I would opt for solar over turbines because solar panels have yet to be implicated in wild bird deaths while turbines have. Not that onshore wind farms are okay, as, for example, California land-based wind farm turbines have accounted for many deaths in the less than 20 years they have been operative on a large scale. Said deaths include any number of flying species, including many raptors, among them both Bald and Golden Eagles.

What's a few Golden Eagle deaths, compared to the millions of human lives that might be saved by reducing atmospheric carbon (and other pollutants oil and coal based pollutants)? Well, there are more than seven billion humans world wide and, I venture to say, less than 10,000 Golden Eagles. We are already stuck with skyscrapers in every world city reaching into the sky claiming the lives of countless birds, a thousand or more at a clip as has recently been documented in Toronto. Tall buildings have been around since early in the 20th century, wind farms are a phenomena most tied to the 21st century which is just getting underway.

Locating wind farms on land where struck birds can be easily counted is much different from locating them twenty miles or

more out in the open sea, where most bird kills would go undetected. We know very little about the movements of birds at sea, but we do know that oceanic and coastal birds account for hundreds of species, which species fly at different elevations for different reasons and have any number of flight paths, both when migrating and during the breeding season.

Research is underway, yes, but at this point, except for tall building hit numbers, we know very little about the rates of downed birds at the hands of land based wind farms, nothing about the hit rates for birds navigating offshore ones.

We also don't know how offshore wind farms affect fish and marine invertebrate populations. The individual turbine towers are moored deeply into the bottom so that they will withstand storms hurricane force storms. Thus the bottom is greatly disturbed and so too are the bottom organisms which can number a lot. The impact on schooling fish is not known, but we do know that coastal waters, that is those over the continental shelf where the wind turbines are planted are the richest both in numbers and species outside of coral reefs in tropical waters.

Lots of migratory flights occur at night time and very often even land birds making long-distance find themselves off the beaten path and flying over water part of the time.

Solar panels, on the other hand in most installations, are rarely more than thirty feet off the ground, there is no advantage to being high up as there is for turbines. It may be almost calm at ground level, but 100 feet up it can be blowing up a storm.

What is bothering me lately is that certain environmental organizations that have done so much for the world flora, fauna and their respective habitats, have taken up the cause for offshore wind farms. One that the Sierra Club is pushing would be on the continental shelf twenty or thirty miles off Montauk. I would hope that the club would be less urgent in its push for turbines and take a breather while we see how big a portion of our green energy goals we can meet with solar. Meanwhile, maybe we can do the research that is needed to site wind farms where they will least impact birds and other wildlife.



Adventures in the field



The second stop along Roe Boulevard included views of Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers and a Great Blue Heron.

Lakes Around Patchogue, *John McNeil, Leader*

About 18 people ventured out on January 5, a cold and sunny day, to enjoy the wintering ducks. Swan Lake was the first stop where we found American Widgeon, Gadwall, Ring-neck Duck, Hooded Merganser, Coot and of course, quite a few Swans. *Sally Newbert*



CONSERVATION COLUMN

Sometimes it's the changes and good each of us can do**“Nobody can do everything but everyone can do something”****Beth Gustin**

With Earth Day coming up on April 22, it is a good time to remember one of the early phrases of environmental awareness: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. Although many of us put into practice each of the words in this phrase, we could probably all use some reminders on how to do this.

Reduce:

— The amount of gasoline you burn in your car by slowing down on the highway.

— The number of trees that are cut from forests by taking just the number of napkins you really use at the deli or one paper towel from the public restroom.

— The amount of electricity you consume by always switching lights off when you leave a room in your house.

— The amount of water and electricity you consume by only running your dishwasher and washing machine when you have a full load.

— The number of plastic bags that are produced by bringing your own shopping bag to the grocery store.

Reuse:

— Use an old sock or t-shirt for dusting or other cleanup jobs around the house and yard.

— Donate clothing, furniture, and even appliances instead of sticking them on the curb to end up in the landfill.

— Reuse plastic bags (that you got from the grocery store when you forgot to bring your own) to clean up after your dog or for your car and household trash.

— Fill up your own aluminum or Nalgene bottle with water instead of purchasing bottled water.



Saturday, March 2nd, 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM **
(Rain date Sunday March 3rd)

Zima, Polish for winter, is a series of magical vignettes of humans, sculptures and displays situated in the Quogue Wildlife forest, where a story will unfold, and attendees will be asked to help solve a riddle. Zima is the creation of the Neo-Political Cowgirls, a professional acting/dance troupe whose name represents new politics of the earth, for all humanity. They have been recognized by Dan's Papers as "Best Theatre Group" in the Hamptons. All are invited to share in these magical dreamscapes, a true embracing of nature and winter. This festive celebration is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children. Enjoy refreshments, snacks, and live music near the cozy fireplace in the Nature Center. Proceeds will benefit QWR. Advanced registration requested, payment due at time of reservation. Please arrive between 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm and dress appropriately for the weather, as this is a 40-minute outdoor walk. ELIAS is a cosponsor of this event.

— Save gift wrap and use it to wrap the next gift you give to someone. (And re-gift the gifts you don't like instead of throwing them away.)

Recycle:

— Gone are the days when we had to lug all of our recyclables to the recycling center on weekends. These days there is no excuse for not setting ALL of your recyclables on the curb!

— Make that trip to your municipal recycling center with your electronics, Styro-foam, and other things that don't get picked up weekly. Make the effort to check your town's website to see what they accept. *You might be surprised!*

— Toss your veggie scraps into a compost pile and use that compost in the garden instead of commercial fertilizer.

— Most airports have recycling bins for cans, bottles and newspapers – seek them out instead of heading straight to the trash can.

— When on a road trip, save up cans and bottles in your car to recycle when you get home if you don't see recycling bins where you are traveling.



Nature Walks/Field Trips & Earth Day Celebration

John McNeil, Field Trip Chair

Field trips and the Earth Day Celebration are free and the public is welcome.

I have begun to plan some exciting spring field trips. Soon the crocuses will be popping and spring migration will be upon us. But first, in March, I am going to do an old favorite. We will visit Belmont and Argyle Lakes and the West End of Jones Beach. We hope to catch some north-bound migrants. Then, in April we will travel to the newly acquired Suffolk County parcel, the North Fork Preserve on Sound Avenue. Most have not visited this Preserve and it fun to explore.

In May I am planning a full month of birding to fill your quest for those elusive warblers and vireos. So keep your calendar open and come along with our trip leaders for these adventures. We will visit the William Floyd Estate in Mastic, Hunters Garden, Terrell River County Park, Hallockville Farm and Maple Swamp and maybe more. These are excellent birding spots and your trip leaders are very excited to share the pleasure of birding and the spring migration with you.

Sat., March 9th, 2013 @ 8 am

Belmont and Argyle Lakes, Ocean Parkway & the West End of Jones Beach

Trip Leader: John McNeil

By this time, the earliest of the north-bound spring migrants will have arrived in the area. We expect to find Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Killdeer. Mostly, however, we will be looking for birds that have wintered here. Among these, we are especially hoping to find Red-necked Grebes, Eurasian Wigeon, Purple Sandpiper, and Redhead and Harlequin Ducks. Meet at the park & ride lot on the east side of Raymour & Flanigan/ShopRite along Sunrise Highway at Route 112 in Patchogue. We will leave the parking lot at 8:00 am. Bring a lunch as we will may not return until the afternoon. For more details, contact John McNeil, 631.281.2623 at home, or on the day of the trip, by cell at 631.219.8947 or send email to birdwchr@gmail.com.

Sat., April 6th @ 8:30am

North Fork Preserve walk

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

This newly acquired Suffolk County parcel, the North Fork Preserve on Sound Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, is one of the largest intact swamp forests left on Long Island. It's extensive wetlands running through out the woods and fields make it an excellent natural area on the North Fork. Come prepared for 3 miles of walking on the trails. Park on northside of Sound Avenue at the Preserve's old Christmas Tree farm.

For more information contact the trip leader, MaryLaura Lamont at 631-722-5542

Earth Day Playlist

Heading out for a picnic, hike, or to the Quogue Wildlife Refuge festivities for Earth Day? Here are some tunes to get you in the Earth Day spirit!

Annie's Song – John Denver
Big Yellow Taxi – Joni Mitchell
Revolution Earth – B52s
Mercy Mercy Me – Marvin Gaye
Fall On Me – REM
This Land Is Your Land
– Bruce Springsteen
Don't Go Near The Water
– Johnny Cash
Rocky Mountain High – John Denver
My City Was Gone – The Pretenders
What A Wonderful World
– Louis Armstrong
Colors Of The Wind
– Vanessa Williams

Submitted by Beth Gustin



EARTH DAY

at Quogue Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, April 20th from 11 am to 3 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 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.**

Check the quogueliferefuge.org/ for the schedule.

Eastport Feeds, Inc.

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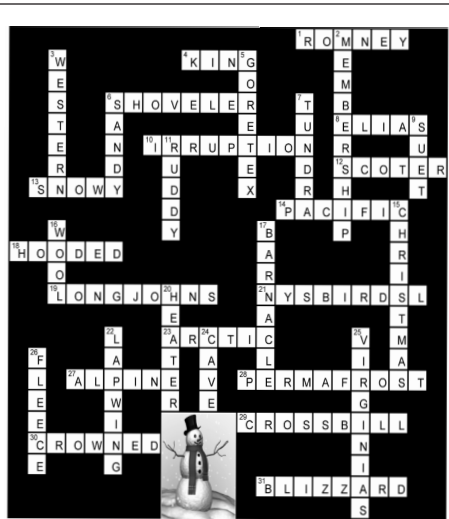
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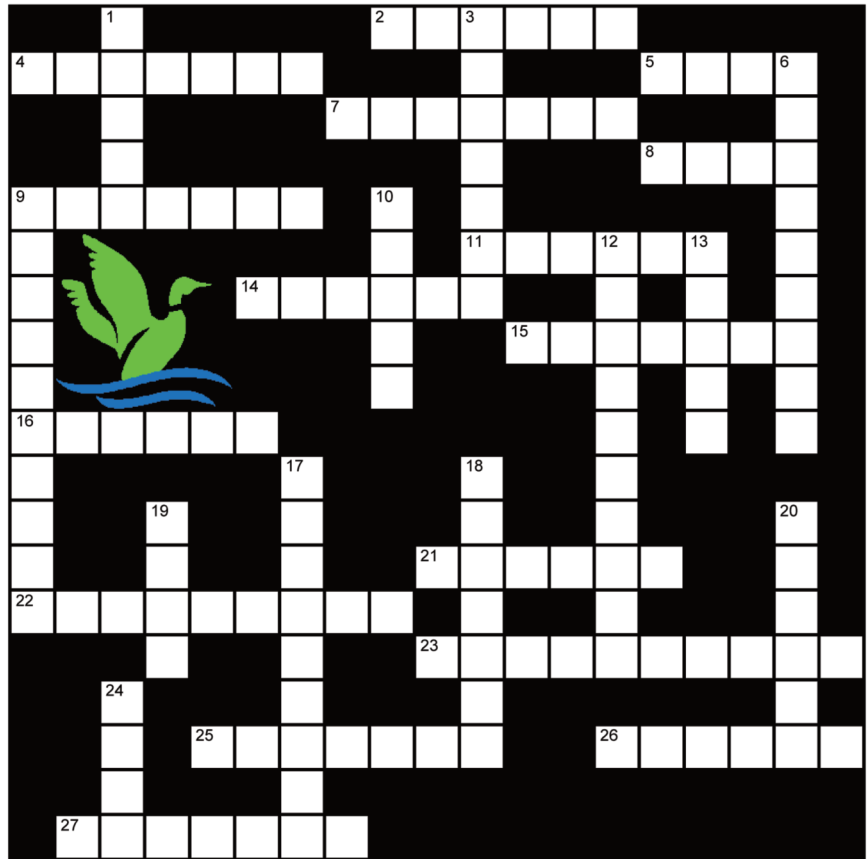
Would you like to submit
an article or a photo?

We would like
to hear from you. Contact:
eliasosprey@optonline.net.

Answers to last issue's puzzle
Winter Birding by Tom Moran



Places to See Sea Ducks by Tom Moran



Across

- 2. Our chapter bird
- 4 Point _____, a good place to try for Harlequin Duck
- 5. A place birds store food, not found in all birds
- 7. Happens during migration because of bad weather
- 8. Carolina _____
- 9. _____, The End, sea ducks were light here this year
- 11. Something we all feel after a long winter? But especially hummingbirds
- 14. _____ Point, look for sea ducks from the FINS tower
- 15. Try this and see who answers back!
- 16. _____ Duck, seen on the pond at St. John's Church in Cold Spring Harbor
- 21. _____ Point, the other End
- 22. Bayard Cutting _____, have a cup of tea at the Hidden Oak Café to warm up
- 23. The _____ Coast Guard Station is a good place to get sparrows
- 25. April _____, generally not good to bird in
- 26. _____ Equinox, the end of winter!
- 27. _____ Vireo, stays up too late? (2 words)

Down

- 1. American _____, some people consider this sighting the first sign of spring
- 3. Owl _____, regurgitated, inedible prey parts
- 6. _____ Bridge, a Western Grebe was spotted there
- 9. _____ Lake, a good place for wintering fresh water ducks and geese, those recently seen include a Barnacle and a Greater White-fronted Goose
- 10. _____ Plains, Purple Sandpipers can sometimes be seen on the jetty to the right
- 12. Largest order of perching and song birds
- 13. Not train tracks, birds that hide in marsh grass
- 17. Where the Pacific Loon was seen
- 18. _____ Goldeneye, seen at Montauk Lake this winter
- 19. _____ Thrush, a bird with a flute like song
- 20. Fruit Loops bird
- 14. _____ Road, American Bitterns are occasionally seen along this road

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Regulus Satrapes

Carl Starace

In the Latin name for this bird the word *regulus* is from the Latin diminutive of, *rex*, meaning *king*. The Latin species name, *satrapes*, means, *ruler*, one wearing a golden crown.

Our two kinglets, the Golden and the Ruby-crowned, are not familiar to most Long Islanders for a several reasons. One is that the main habitat they breed and thrive in, conifer forests, is absent here. So wintering birds although occurring here, do so in small numbers. Also, because it is tiny, ever moving, and usually flits about in the upper branches of trees, it is often devilishly hard to get open looks at. Finally, the Golden-crowned Kinglet's call is not only high sounding but also soft and so it doesn't tilt many heads in its direction. I've had the best views of these birds in fall migration, usually in October. At that time if you travel to the barrier islands you may be lucky enough to watch them at or near ground level as they will occasionally stop and feed in the ground cover and pines along the duneline.

Description: The Golden-crowned Kinglet is 3 1/4 to 4 1/2 inches long with a wingspan of 6 1/2 to 7 inches. Another way of looking at it is that Golden-crowns are barely larger than most hummingbirds. They are just as active, too, flicking their wings continuously as they move through the branches. Its bill is thin and black and its tail is short. In color it is olive green above and white below. The male sports an orange crown patch which is bordered by yellow and black. The female crown patch is yellowy. His crown colors are always distinct. Both male and females faces are boldly striped. The eye-line is black with white on both supercilium and the auriculars. The eyes are black and the Golden-crowned has white wing bars. A dark color bar lays across the base of its secondaries, (Ruby-crowns have this as well). Juvenile Golden-crowns have a browner back and no yellow in the crown.



Range: The Golden-crowns are mainly boreal forest breeders, although some choose to nest in deciduous forests. In conifers the nest is usually in the upper crown. Eight to nine eggs are the norm. They have so many young and their nest is so small that the eggs are in two layers. They nest from Southern Alaska and British Columbia east as far as Newfoundland. In the lower forty eight it nests in mountainous areas of southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, Central Massachusetts, New York and southern Maine. Golden-crowns have even been found to nest in highland areas of Mexico and Guatemala. In winter some Golden-crowns are found from New York State south to Northern Florida. Many others do not leave their northern breeding territories. How a bird whose actual weight is not more than a couple of pennies survives the deep cold of winter nights in those forests is still a mystery. One of our finest nature writers, Bernd Heinrich, has written several books on the winter survival of our native wildlife. In his book, *Winter World* he admits that it was his fascination with the Golden-crowned Kinglet that caused him to write the book. In it he gives wonderful insight on this diminutive, spirited creature and on many others.

Diet: Their food is almost entirely insects and insect eggs. They relish things like bark beetles, plant lice like aphids and the scale insects. This bird will also sample the sap of trees.

Song: The Golden-crowned's call is a high *tsi tsi tsi tsi*. Its song usually only heard on its breeding grounds is an extension of the call *tsi tsi tsi tsi tsi djit djit djit djit*. Most of us will hear the bird before we hopefully see it. This winter I wish you all get more than a parting glance at the *LITTLE KING*.

The Quality Parks Master Naturalist Program

The Quality Parks Master Naturalist (QPMN) Program is a certification course designed to establish a meaningful level of standardization to the title of "Naturalist" for the citizens of Long Island. Regional training hubs have been established in order to make this course accessible to all residents of Long Island. The standardized curriculum ensures that everyone will receive the same high quality education. The course itself is a rigorous combination of classroom study, field-trips, independent inquiry, volunteer assignments, with local guest speakers.

By certifying a cadre of citizen conservationists, we hope to instill future generations with basic ethical standards. Sustainability, environmental literacy, nature education, land stewardship, and community service are all needed to advance the long-range health and vitality of Long Island's natural heritage. Upon graduation, a Master Naturalist can experience a more meaningful, healthy, and sustainable lifestyle.

On the East End the course is being offered at the Southampton Town Community Center in Flanders. From there we will be involving many community organizations and natural areas in Riverhead, the North and South Forks.

The program will run between April-June 2013, two evening sessions and six Saturdays, plus additional flexible opportunities. Seats are limited. For more information, course details, and registration: <http://www.qualityparks.org>

Quality Parks, is a 501(c)(3) federally recognized organization that has been benefiting Long Island Natural Areas since 2000.

ELIAS is on Facebook
Check it Out and Click on Like

Water Quality, Working Towards a Solution

Alexandra Millar from the office of the Peconic Bay Keeper

The word is spreading, but not fast enough. On Long Island, like most of the East Coast, human wastewater is polluting the water we drink and the water we see. The good thing is that we know what the problems are, which gives us the power to work towards a solution and to heal what is ailing most, Long Island's waters. *Scientia potentia est*, knowledge is power, and the next step is to turn this power into action.

However, as Albert Einstein once said, "problems cannot be solved at the same level of awareness that created them." For Long Island this means that we can no longer develop to the detriment of our environment. We must begin to see our community through the perspective of sustainability and we must learn to put the greater good ahead of the good of a few. It is time for all of us to become advocates for change and to speak out on behalf of our bays (and other waterbodies).

So what can you do to reduce nitrogen pollution from wastewater, the single greatest threat to our local waters?

Since last year the Suffolk County Department of Health has been expected to approve alternative systems for single-family homes (for flows of less than 1,000 gallons per day). Unfortunately, as of now, there aren't any approved advanced denitrification systems and the only options for single-family homeowners are conventional systems. In the meantime, in addition to staying abreast of your options, it is important to educate yourself on your current system, how does it function and what is your depth to groundwater. In many low-lying communities with seasonally high water tables, it is not unusual for older cesspools to be sitting directly in groundwater.

Evaluate your location in relation to the nearest waterbody. Remember that no matter how far you live from the water, wastewater from a cesspool will eventually mix with groundwater and travel to surface waters, it is just a matter of how long it will take. It is also worth mentioning that contrary to popular belief, pump-

ing out these systems does nothing to significantly reduce nitrogen loads.

In 2011, advanced denitrification technology was approved in Suffolk County for intermediate flows (over 1,000 gallons of wastewater/day). This category of infrastructure includes, hotels, apartment complexes, restaurants and bars, and senior living facilities, among others.

As stewards of our community and our bays, we have a responsibility to pay attention to new development projects and to support our business leaders in making responsible decisions when it comes to wastewater. As an island community re-

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small group of thoughtful,
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can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing
that ever has."***

liant upon healthy drinking water and healthy bays, sacrificing our environment has economic and social impacts, as well as ecological.

Understandably, alternative systems are not usually the cheapest option available, but it should not be up to the taxpayers alone to bear the financial burden of cleaning up the septic mess and Long Island's degraded waters. It is the collective responsibility of the Long Island community to secure a healthy future for our bays, and that means spending money to install the best available wastewater treatment systems.

It is especially urgent that denitrification technology be installed in new development projects and in property upgrades adjacent to waterbodies. Recent candidates would include the restaurant, Rhumba, on Shinnecock Bay and the new

East End Hospice facility located on Aspatuck Creek in Quogue. Unfortunately, neither of these businesses is pursuing advanced wastewater treatment, but, there is still hope that the East End Hospice facility will reconsider its options.

In both circumstances, community members from around the area showed up to passionately voice the urgent need for responsible business and to implore these facilities to install denitrification technology. The power of a citizen voicing his or her opinion and adding a little public pressure on those with the capacity to make meaningful changes cannot be underestimated.

As a group with a special appreciation of Long Island and the waters that weave through the landscape, we exhort the members of the Eastern Long Island Audubon Society to take action, lend your voice to protect the natural environment of Long Island that we all love and depend on. In this simple act, your impact will be far greater than you could ever imagine.

In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

If you have any questions about projects in your area or if you want to learn more about upcoming opportunities to voice your support of clean water, you can call the Peconic Baykeeper at (631) 653-4804 or email Peconic Baykeeper at info@peconicbaykeeper.org.

Common Raven are back at their "New" nesting site in Hampton Bays. Some nest-building activity has been observed this year – hopefully, the once rare LI Raven will be a permanent resident!



EILEEN SCHWINN

Winter birding

Eileen Schwinn and friends

Winter birding is an exciting time for local birders – the hope of “Something Rare” showing up nearby is what keeps us out doors through the early weeks of winter! This year was no exception – in fact, it seemed like a Bumper Crop of Rare Birds showed up! Here are a few photographs take of our delightful visitors!

This **Tufted Duck** at Huntington Harbor, is a common duck in Europe but seen usually once every year or two here on LI. This one was easily accessible for a number of weeks. Note his distinctive “pony tail”.



DEREK ROGERS

American Bittern, Dune Rd, Hampton Bays – Not a rare bird, but an elusive one! This year we’ve at least four “resident” Bitterns along Dune Rd, and those are the ones we can see! This bird hides itself well in the grasses and marshes.

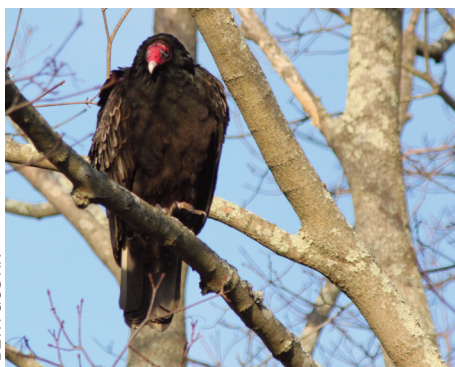


EILEEN SCHWINN

Common Redpoll, East Quogue backyard feeder – one of the more uncommon visitors to LI. Usually a here today, gone tomorrow bird



EILEEN SCHWINN



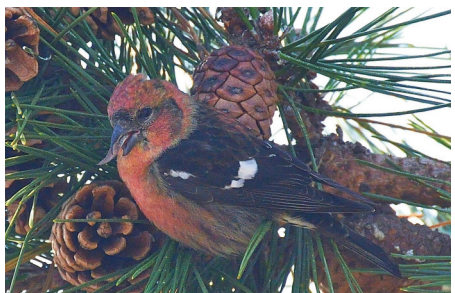
BETH GUSTIN

Turkey Vultures were a rare to nonexistent bird on Long Island. But in the last few years they have become residents. This one was in East Moriches with at least 7 friends.



DEREK ROGERS

A **Lapland Longspur** at Jones Beach



DAVID SAGMAN

White-winged Crossbill is one of the irruptive species of winter finches which suddenly appeared among local pine groves. They travel south, in theory, due to northern pine crop failures. This one was seen in Southampton.

Western Grebe, Montauk. Another once-every-five plus years bird! This Western US resident was a one-day wonder in Montauk, but might have been the same individual seen in Shinnecock Bay a few days later, moving west!



EILEEN SCHWINN



SALLY NEWBERT

Snow Geese flying into the Sayville Golf Course with a flock of Canadas. Several Eurasian Widgeon were also on the Golf Course pond.



EILEEN SCHWINN



DEREK ROGERS

Several Eurasian Widgeons teamed up with a flock of American Widgeon on the Sayville Golf Course.



PAT BRACK



BETH GUSTIN

The snow storm brought a **Hermit Thrush** to Pat Barck’s feeders and a **Fox Sparrow** to Beth Gustin’s yard.

Feeder Survey for March/April

John McNeil

The Survey will be conducted the first full week of the month starting on Sunday and ending the following Sunday. This survey takes place from October to June.

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.
- Please sent your counts to:

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., March 3 to Sun., March 10

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., April 7 to Sun., April 14

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
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- _____ Brown-headed Cowbird
- _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- _____ Rock Dove (pigeon)
- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Other _____



BETH GUSTIN



BETH GUSTIN

New Administrator for Kaler's Pond

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center (TRSAC) in Oyster Bay, NY has accepted the charge to oversee Kaler's Pond Audubon Center operations. The transition from Audubon New York offices in Albany to the TRSAC has occurred over the past year with the TRSAC now administering all aspects of the Kaler's Pond operation in 2013. Center Director, Ted Scherff and the TRSAC staff are working with Sharon Gilbert, Michele Baron, and Jay Kuhlman to provide seasonal community services and programs at the center. Additionally, TRSAC staff provide school programs in Center Moriches and hope to start offering scout badge programs as well. Also, staff will be offering community programs at the Center Moriches Library this winter on such subjects as Backyard Birds, Butterflies, and more.

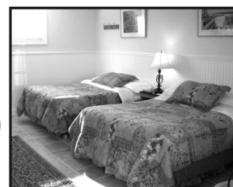
Should any Eastern Long Island Audubon Society members be interested in leading public programs or volunteering at the center, please contact Ted Scherff at tscherff@audubon.org or 516-922-3200.

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center is located at 134 Cove Road in Oyster Bay, NY 11771.

Hog Island Audubon Camp

There is still some availability in the legendary 6-day, 5-night birding and nature programs at the Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. 2013 camp instructors include Kenn Kaufman, Scott Weidensaul, Clay and Pat Sutton, and many more. All summer programs include a trip to Eastern Egg Rock, home of the restored Atlantic Puffin colony by Project Puffin director, Steve Kress.

For more information: <http://hogisland.audubon.org> or email: hogisland@audubon.org or call (607) 257-7308 x14.



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For \$15 a year, you will receive 6 issues of *The Osprey* and you will be supporting our local education and conservation activities.

This is a Renewal New Membership

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Email _____

Please be sure to include your email. You will receive an email confirmation, a pdf of the first newsletter and occasional updates and notices of any program changes. This list is not shared.

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