



# The OSPREY

May/June 2012 — Vol. XXXVII No. 3

***He asks, “How'd I do?” She replies, “I dunno, let's see you do it again.”***

## Larry Penny

It's Woodcock mating season on the East End. Every spring for many a year the 3rd House Nature Center of Montauk has been monitoring the success or failure of the male Woodcock's aerial maneuvers and twittering songs at dusk to woo a mate hidden below. Vicki Bustamante of that august group was one of the faithful observers and reports that thus far it's a good year for Woodcocks. Marking a territory that is mostly brush and overgrown fields—in Montauk the so-called “maritime grasslands” is hard to do from a perch near the ground. There are very few tall reference points (trees, buildings) to use as metes and bounds. So the male Woodcock takes to the air to define his territory, very much like the Skylark in Europe which has similar requirements, and is also a ground-nester.

Montauk, beginning on the west at the eastern juncture of the Napeague Peninsula and running all the way to the Lighthouse on the Point, was once all grasslands. It was regularly burned off by the Montaukett Indians during the pre-Columbian era and continued to be burned off after settlement in the 1860s by both the natives and the newcomers. The practice continued right through the post-World War II era when the botanist Norman Taylor studied “The Vegetation of Montauk” in the early 1920s. Hither Woods on the west and north was not a woodland at all but a mosaic of grasslands and old fields; eastern red junipers were its most common tree species.

The Montauk grasslands were not quite as big as the Hempstead Plains, but sizeable, and much larger than those covering the Shinnecock Hills of Hampton Bays in the early settlement and colonial days. In those days these Long Island “prairies”

not only sported large numbers of Woodcocks, but the now extinct Heath Hen as well. For bird watchers in those times, seeing the two together, one displaying in the air and one on the ground must have been quite a sight.

Except for the “Point Woods” which Taylor also studied and wrote about, the land east of Lake Montauk all the way to the Point was mostly grassland and brushland. Now except for 75 acres or so, it is all in the public trust, in state, county, town and Nature Conservancy ownership. It is ideal Woodcock breeding habitat and promises to be for a very long time in the future.

While I was at Southampton College in the Shinnecock Hills in the 1970s, the area to the west of the campus was good Woodcock breeding grounds but now it has largely been subdivided. Gardiner's Island is about half grasslands and plays host to several Woodcock pairs each spring, I've spooked up many a Timberdoodle there in the 1990s. It has a major advantage over the other named areas in that it is fox- and feral cat- free, one of the only Woodcock breeding areas on Long Island that can make that claim. I wonder if Woodcocks still circle and call over the 17 remaining acres of the Hempstead Plains each spring, I would guess, not.

While the Woodcocks have made a very long go of it in Montauk already and will most likely continue to do well into the future, the Woodcock watchers of the 3rd House Nature Center, which has educated so many youngsters and older folk about

the wonders of wildlife and wild flora, geology, waters and the night sky overhead for more than 20 years, may go the way of the Heath Hen. It is barely holding on after being kicked out of an East Hampton town-owned house by the latest Town Supervisor. The house on Fort Pond had been its permanent residence for almost a decade. The 3rd House Nature Center was started more than 20 years ago by Carol Morrison of the Concerned Citizens of Montauk and now is under the able leadership of Ed Johann. Its days may be numbered. Let's hope not!

Meanwhile, Mr. Woodcock whirls around singing his heart out for Mrs. Woodcock as she watches intently from below. After a spectacular display he lands with a loud “peet” at her feet. He asks, “How'd I do?” She replies, “I dunno, let's see you do it again.”



**Warbler walks are listed on pages 2 & 3. First one on May 9.**  
**Nature programs are on page 5.**  
**Learn about otters on LI and Birding Kazakhstan.**

# Field Trips for May & June John McNeil

With the coming May and June field trip schedule, chiropractic adjustments will be the order of the day. So....call your chiropractor and make several appointments in the month of May for Warbler Neck, the most common complaint from birders this time of year.

Join our field trip leaders as they take you along on this fantastic hobby of ours, the annual rights of spring, viewing of the butterflies of the birding world. Yes.....**Warbler Madness.**

First, on **Wednesday May 9th** Eric Salzman will guide you into one of East End's best birding spots that he loves so dearly, "**Maple Swamp.**" Second, MaryLaura Lamont will lead you into the "**William Floyd Estate**" in early May, in honor of "**International Migratory Bird Day**" to catch some early migrants as they head northward. That next day, Sunday **May 13th**, Jay Kuhlman will give you a guided tour of the "**Terrell River County Park.**" On **Wednesday May 16th** Eileen Schwinn will take you around the "**Quogue Wildlife Refuge**" for an early morning bird walk in some of the exciting haunts only she knows. This morning bird walk can be very rewarding and Eileen is an excellent field trip leader

## **Have you had enough?**

On **May 19th** MaryLaura Lamont will lead the walk to "**Hallock State Park**" to explore its varied habitats. Next, "**The Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge**" is holding the grand opening of its refuge center in honor of International Migratory Bird Day. It will have displays and exhibits focused on migratory birds and conservation. I hear it looks like something you would see in the Adirondacks.

On **Sunday, May 20th** MaryLaura Lamont will again guide the bird walk of **Old Mastic at the William Floyd Estate** looking for late arrivals and finally, Carl Starace will lead us from "**Bald Hill into the back area of Hunter's Garden.**"

In the early June, we will visit "**Hempstead Lake State Park**" which can be an excellent birding spot, we will try to catch some of the late migrants as they pass.

I am so excited that our field trip leaders have come up with such an exciting schedule for May and June. I am so pleased to offer such a variety of locations to explore. Please join us to experience this birding adventure.

## **Wednesday, May 9 at 8:00 am**

### **Historic Maple Swamp**

**Trip leader: Eric Salzman**

Eric Salzman will guide you into one of nature's wonderlands. Maple Swamp has been one of the best warbler spots on Eastern Long Island (along with Hunters Garden). It is like a catch basin for spring migrants and has been a breeding ground for many warblers and vireos. We will surely see many local breeders like the Scarlet Tanager, Ovenbirds, Blue-winged Warbler, Wood Thrush and a possibly a Golden-winged Warbler. Please wear appropriate clothing because of ticks. Eric will meet you at the entrance to Maple Swamp on Pleasure Drive just southeast of the entrance to the old Graphics of Peconic. There is a dirt road leading to a pasture and he will park and wait there a few minutes before 8:00 am. You can contact Eric at his e-mail address: es@eric-salzman.com or me at: birdwchr@gmail.com for more details.

## **Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 am**

### **William Floyd Estate, Mastic**

**Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont**

In honor of International Migratory Bird Day the William Floyd Estate and Eastern Long Island Audubon Society will conduct a bird walk through the Estate's historic grounds of fields, woods, creeks and marshes. Bring binoculars for this 2-mile round trip walk to catch a glimpse of the early spring migrating birds. Use the Main Entrance Gate on Park Dr., Mastic. Call 631-399-2030 for further info. Program ends by about noon.

## **Sunday, May 13 at 8:00 am**

### **Terrell River County Park**

**Trip leader: Jay Kuhlman**

Come join us for a 3 to 4 hour walk through the varied habitats of Terrell River County Park as we look for migrants and resident species including Blue-winged, Black and White, and Pine Warblers, Marsh Wren, Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat and White-eyed Vireo. Other species seen here in the past are Blue Grosbeak, Blackburnian Warbler, and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. We will meet at 8:00 am at the trailhead, located on the south side of Montauk Hwy., opposite the Kaler's Pond Audubon Center and Flight 800 Memorial Park in Center Moriches. This walk is sponsored by ELIAS and Kaler's Pond.

## **Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 am**

### **Quogue Wildlife Refuge**

**Trip leader: Eileen Schwinn**

Join your field trip leader for a early May morning walk around the Quogue Wildlife Refuge to catch some of the spring migrants as they flutter about. Walking shoes, water bottle and binoculars will be needed. Meet your field trip leader at 7:30 am at the parking lot of the Refuge for the refreshing spring walk.

## **Saturday, May 19 at 9:00 am**

### **Birdwalk to the New Hallock State Park**

**Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont**

Traverse the varied habitats of the New Hallock State Park during the peak migration time for neotropical species such as thrushes, vireos, warblers and more. Come join MaryLaura for a morning outing to catch the wave. For additional detail MaryLaura Lamont may be contacted at 631-399-2030. There is a \$5 charge for this walk to benefit the Hallockville Farm Museum.

*MORE - continued on next page*

**Saturday, May 19 at 10 AM**

## Grand Opening Celebration National Wildlife Refuge Complex at the Wertheim Refuge

The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Friends of Wertheim Refuge are thrilled to announce the Grand Opening of the new Long Island Refuge Complex Visitor Center on Saturday, May 19th (rain or shine). Everyone is invited to join the Grand Opening event. Explore the Visitor Center, walk the new Black Tupelo trail, canoe the Carman's River and participate in an assortment of family friendly birding activities and games. A variety of local partners will also help recognize the 20th anniversary of International Migratory Bird Day with displays and exhibits focused on migratory birds and conservation. The day will begin at 10:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. The Grand Opening ceremony will begin at noon. Admission is free of charge.

**Eastern Long Island Audubon will be participating and will have an exhibit and table set up. So be sure to stop by and meet us.**

Every year the event gets a little bit bigger and attracts even more people. In years past, between 350 and 500 people have attended. This year the event should be even bigger. In addition to the Grand Opening ceremony this will be the sixth annual International Migratory Bird Celebration. This year's theme "**Connecting People to Bird Conservation**" offers a perfect opportunity to engage the public to learn more about Long Island's migratory birds through a variety of hands on, interactive activities and presentations.

Two activities require advanced reservations in order to participate. Anthony Graves will lead an interpretative canoe tour on the Carman's River from 9:00 – 11:00 am. This activity is limited to 30 people. Ten canoes will join Anthony. People sitting in the middle of the boat will NOT paddle. You must be at least 16 years old and have adult supervision. The second activity is a bird walk to the impoundment area led by Alice Heller of the Great South Bay Audubon Society. Fifteen people

are welcome to join Alice. Call the front office to make your reservations at 631-286-0485.

Many volunteers are needed in every aspect of this event from parking, kids' activities, bird hikes and ensuring the public has a great experience at the event. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact Visitor Services Manager, Jody DeMeyere, the Visitor Services Manager at (631) 286-0485 X 2131 or email: jody\_demeyere@fws.gov.

The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex is located at 340 Smith Road in Shirley, NY 11967

**Sunday, May 20 at 9:00 am**

## Old Mastic Bird Walk at the William Floyd Estate

**Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont**

MaryLaura Lamont will be the trip leader for the Spring Migration Bird Walk at the William Floyd Estate in Mastic. The Estate has a varied habitat of woods, fields; creeks and marsh, which brings in thousands of migrating birds. This will be a 3-hour walking tour and will cover approximately 3 miles – round trip. This is peak migration for birds. You will probably see warblers and vireos as they flutter about within the trees. Bring binoculars. MaryLaura Lamont can be reached at 631-722-5542 if you need additional details. Meet at 9 am, use the Main Entrance on Park Drive. For information and directions, telephone the Floyd Estate at 631-399-2030

**Sunday, May 20 at 7:30 am**

## Bald Hill/Hunters Garden

**Trip leader: Carl Starace**

**Come one, Come All**, for the Grand Tour of Bald Hill and Hunters Garden at the peak of bird migration. Wear appropriate clothing-long sleeve shirts, long pants and sneakers. If you use tick spray, be sure to bring it along. Perhaps a snack and water bottle as well. We will spend a couple of hours looking for all sorts of warbler species, thrushes and other specialties of the season! Meet at the trailhead to Bald

Hill off of Route 51 just north of the access road to Hunters Garden. The DEC had blocked off the entrance to Hunters Garden with a locked gate. You either have to park on Route 51 and walk down the access road or enter via Bald Hill and walk down to the garden. For additional details and directions you can contact your trip leader Carl Starace at: cas-tarace@gmail.com or telephone 631-281-8074

**Saturday, June 2 at 7:00 am**

## Birding at Hempstead Lake State Park

**Trip Leader: John McNeil**

Please join me for a birding experience at Hempstead Lake State Park. This park is an IBA that supports large numbers of flycatchers, warblers, tanagers and a mix of other birds from mid April to late May and into early June. We will meet at the park-and-ride lot off of Route 112 in Patchogue, next to the new StopRite at 7:00 am (this was Home Depot). Contact John McNeil at 631-219-8947 or birdwchr@gmail.com for additional details. If you would like to drive yourself the directions are: Southern State Parkway west to Exit 18 (Eagle Ave.) and proceed south to the 2nd parking lot.

## Kaler's Pond Nature Center

**will open May 17**

**on weekends.**

**Phone 631 878 5576**

**for information**

**and upcoming programs.**

## Get Involved

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

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

**Contact:**

**eliasosprey@optonline.net.**

# Birding Spots to Check Out

Several of our board members wanted to share some of their favorite places to go birding in the spring as the migrants come in.

Here are some recommendations:

## Eileen Schwinn

One of my favorite places to go birding in late spring has the added bonus of being directly across the street from a World Class Ice Cream Store!! In fact, it's the perfect place to "celebrate" a first of lifetime, first of year, first of month, or even first of day bird you might happen to come across. Where is this special place? Why, it's the DEC property located just off West Main Street in Riverhead, across the street from Snowflake Ice Cream!! Just enter the road, on the South, along side the brick electric station. It's marked as a DEC area. Drive a few hundred feet to the 6 car parking lot. Get out and walk the area across the river from the lot, and even toward the LIPA Service area, which is at the end of the paved road.

This tiny gem of a park has safe, off-street parking, a short walking area, a great view of the Peconic River, which narrows at this very point as the river proceeds toward emptying into Peconic Bay, a mixed habitat of woodlands, wetlands, and open fields – and lots and lots of birds!! In a typical visit, mid-June, you are likely to see and hear Towhee, Hairy Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Cedar Waxwing, Rough-winged Swallow and nesting Warbling Vireo. This site is also "famous" for the Fighting Yellow Warbler - seen over the past few years, a male who seems to like to fight with his own reflection in your car's side-view mirrors!! From this little park, two Black Vultures were seen by a couple of local birding folk a few years back - same day as all the above birds were seen! Definitely worth a stop on your way to anything in Riverhead – and be sure to stop at Snowflake! You deserve it!

## The Baiting Hollow Boy Scout Camp

### Byron Young

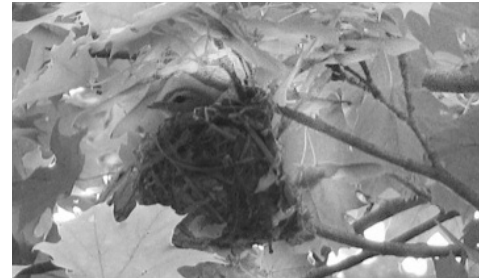
Anyone looking for a nice North Shore birding location should try the Baiting Hollow Boy Scout camp on Sound Avenue just west of Edwards Avenue and east of Hulse Landing Road. Parking is located on the north side of Sound Avenue in the Hollow. As you come down into the hollow slow down and look for the parking area but be careful when turning as folks fly through this area. Be especially careful when exiting the parking lot as traffic coming from the east is hidden. There is ample off road parking and a very nice trail or road system to walk.

The property runs from Sound Avenue all the way to Long Island Sound about half-a-mile in a straight line, however, if you try the straight line approach you will end up with wet feet. The trail winds around Fresh Pond across the dam and then along the southern and western edge of the marsh all the way to the beach on Long Island Sound. It is approximately a mile-and-a-half to the beach and a very pleasant walk. The property is mostly old growth oak and beech with some small white pine and several nice tangles of willow, Virginia creeper and alder.

The property and trail is well maintained by the Boy Scouts so it is fairly comfortable walking. The best times to visit is during the week as there is usually a fair amount of Boy Scout activity during the weekends. The folks from the local neighborhood walk these trails as well.

You can expect to see a nice mix of birds on your visit from woodland birds to waterfowl on the marsh as well as wading birds. The marsh has a nesting pair of Osprey and this is the spot where the Red-headed Woodpecker was seen this past winter.

With the spring migration about to begin this is a nice place to visit. You will have a pleasant walk and should encounter a nice mix of spring birds.



A Warbling Vireo nest discovered on the Breeding Bird Census

## Breeding Bird Census

June 9-24, 2012

### Eileen Schwinn

Since the 1975 bird breeding season, our Chapter has conducted extensive surveys of resident – and presumed breeding – birds. Using the same geographic area as our Central Suffolk Christmas Count (Cupsogue and Smith Point Beaches, Gabreski Airport, EPCAL, Riverhead and Yaphank as rough outlines) enthusiastic volunteers venture out alone or in small groups. While not the "Snap-Shot" of a Christmas Count, these surveys take place at the participant's schedule. This year, the survey period is June 9-24, 2012. Experience in counts is not a necessity, and many new birders find participation in the Census very rewarding. Groups are put together with every level of birding skills and extra eyes are always needed! Over the years, more than 210 species of birds have been recorded, with some groups reporting close to 100 birds for the day! Part and



Purple Martins

whole day commitments are available to meet your schedule, with weekend and weekday teams offered. For many, this intense birding experience is a wonderful way to see lots of birds with a good group of friendly, knowledgeable people.

**For more information, contact Eileen Schwinn — [beachmed@optonline.net](mailto:beachmed@optonline.net) or phone: 516-662-7751. There's a place for everyone and all are welcome!**



## Nature Programs

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

**Bob Adamo, Interim Program Chair**

**Monday, May 7 beginning at 7:15, the speaker will begin at 7:30**

### Yes Virginia, There are Wild River Otters on Long Island

This will be a presentation by wildlife biologist Mike Bottini on the natural history of the river otter and the results of his 2008-2009 survey of otters on Long Island including his current research projects on this interesting animal and threats to its comeback on Long Island.

Mike, a veteran naturalist, outdoor educator, and environmental consultant, worked for fourteen years at the Group for the South Fork, a non-profit environmental advocacy organization. He has taught at several universities and published three books. In addition to the river otter on Long Island, Mike's wildlife research studies have included elk, spotted and tiger salamanders, spotted turtles and piping plovers.



**Monday, June 4 beginning at 7:15 pm, the speaker will begin at 7:30**

### Birding Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is partially in Asia, partially in Europe, and absolutely an amazing place to visit! Though most people only know Kazakhstan from the movie *Borat* it is a county with amazing scenery, from rugged mountains to seemingly endless steppe, from deserts to lush wetlands. Come see a slide show featuring the scenery and birds of Kazakhstan but be warned, if you do you might find yourself booking a trip to Kazakhstan that you never intended to take.



Corey Finger has been birding for only six years but has birded extensively in the United States and has traveled to Europe, Asia, South American and Central America. Back to New York and is convinced that the birding in the state is as good or better than anywhere he has visited. Corey writes and shares his pictures on the world's most read bird blog: *10,000 Birds*.

**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 other leaders. Come join the fun.

**Saturday, August 4 beginning at 8:00 am**

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

This will be a new event. Instead of the usual meeting, we have scheduled this on **Saturday morning** as a joint venture with the South Fork Natural History Museum. The meeting and walk will take place at their facility in Bridgehampton. We hope some of our members who may live further east will join in to explore the Vineyard field, a large field with ponds and surrounding woods behind the Museum. 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.





# Bay Gardens

GARDEN DESIGN & DECOR

Spring is here!  
Stop in and get started  
for the season

Annuals, Perennials  
Trees & Shrubs

Bird Baths

Bird Houses

Bird Seed

Bird Feeders

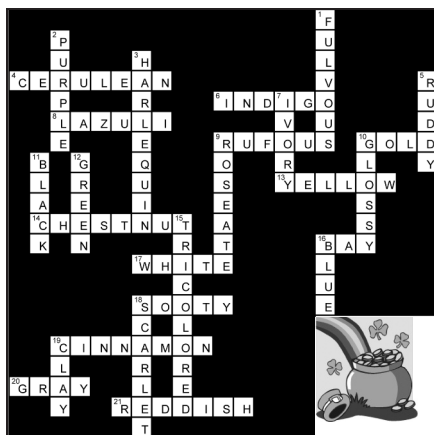
Walpole Woodworkers

369 Montauk Highway  
East Moriches, NY 11940  
631-909-4630

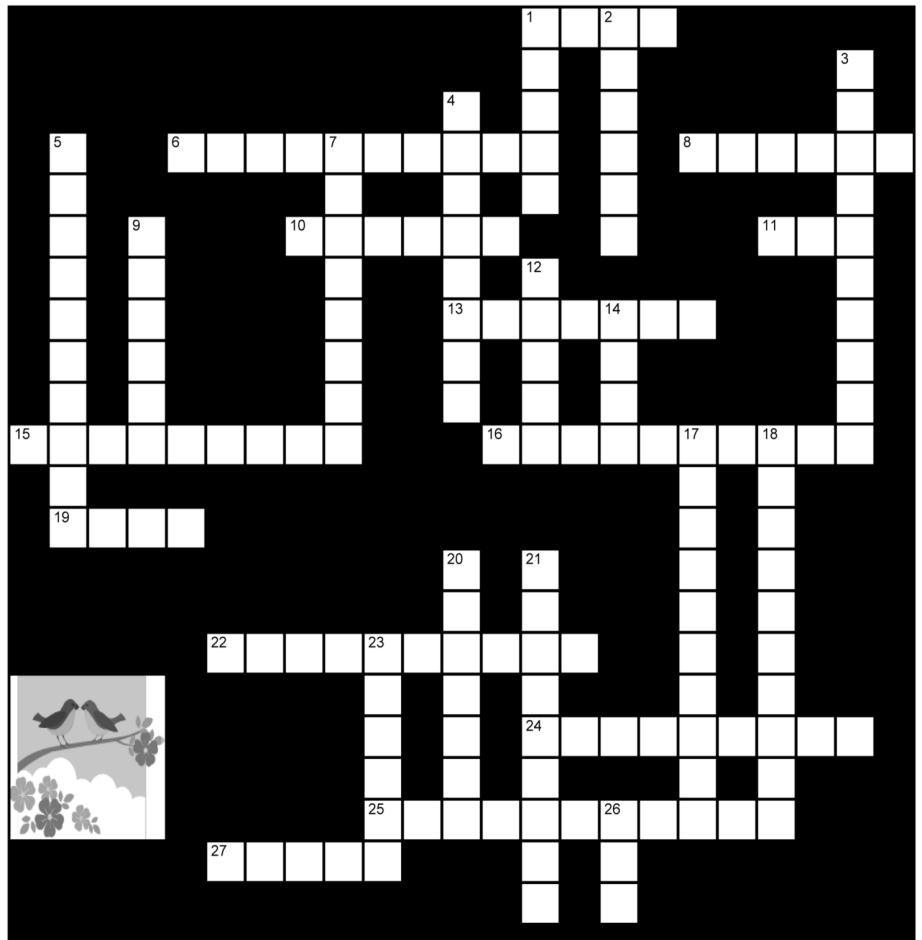
baygardens.ny@gmail.com

Answers to last issue's puzzle

Bird Colors



## Breeding and Nesting by Tom Moran



**Across**

- 1. Located in the breast, used to make distinctive noises
- 6. Sitting on eggs
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ nests, type of nest built by Belted Kingfishers
- 10. Displays (type of), common among eagles and falcons, a flying breeding interaction that is spectacular to see
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ nests, type of nest built by Orioles
- 13. Type of bowl shaped nest (2 words)
- 15. A type of sound made by Snipes as they plunge towards the ground in a breeding display
- 16. A species in which the sex roles are reversed, males incubate the eggs, and do not defend territories
- 19. Replacing feathers, not usually during breeding season because of the energy required for each
- 22. One mate
- 24. An area a bird defends to forage and raise young
- 25. Some species, such as Scrub Jays, help care for young even if they are non relatives (2 words)
- 27. A group of nestlings or the act of sitting on them to provide warmth

**Down**

- 1. These vocalizations serve to define territory and attract females

- 2. A concentrated breeding territory, common among gulls, terns for example
- 3. Young birds that have left the nest but are still dependent on parents' care
- 4. Males that mate with more than one female at the same time — let's face it males are dogs!?
- 5. Brood \_\_\_\_\_, where a female of one species lays an egg in the nest of another species who will then raise the egg as one of its own
- 7. An activity, often fun, that may increase a bird's energy requirements by 50%!
- 9. A particular bird with a large, colorful bill, called an ornamental, meant to attract a mate! You know what they say about large feet/hands!?
- 12. A branch that serves as a good place to sing from, for example
- 14. Not a song, a sound that sometimes is used to locate young or a mate
- 17. The number of different songs a bird sings
- 18. Males mate with more than one female in a breeding season (see clue 4 down for description of male!)
- 20. Gender that usually builds the nest (plural)
- 21. A type of behavior that is associated with finding a mate
- 23. Some species, like some sparrows, don't build tree nests but here instead.
- 26. Territories used by males of some species



## The Northern Parula

*Parula Americana*

Carl Starace

Ah, the Northern Parula. It's a creeper amongst the topmost of branches. Its title, "Parula", comes from the scientific name meaning, "little titmouse." So apt for our smallest of the wood warblers at a mere four and one-half inches. The Northern Parula is a widespread breeder across eastern North America. In our northern states it is known to use, "Usula Longissima", a lichen known as, "Old Mans Beard," for its

nesting material. The Parula will turn up some of the ends of the lichen so that they form a pocket, concealing the eggs. The southern populations of Parulas use Spanish moss for this same purpose.

**Distribution:** Of these two distinct breeding populations the northern extends from the Canadian Maritime Provinces across southern portions of Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba, throughout Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, our Adirondacks and west into Michigan and Wisconsin. The Southern population runs from southern New York all the way down to central Florida, westward into Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma and into central Texas.

**Description:** It is tiny, plump in body, stubby in both its pointed bill and its tail. The upperparts are bluish and its mantle, (upperback), is yellowy-green. First year birds and both their parents all have yellow on throats and breasts. Lower halves and rumps are all white. Although a trace of rufous may be seen on the flanks of adult males. Adult male and female have pretty black and rufous breastbands over the yellow. They have broken whitish eye rings, two white wingbars and the white tail spots are very evident.

**Behavior:** Parulas move quickly as they feed among the leaves on branches about the canopy and at times in migration, the understory of trees. These birds may hang like a Chickadee and/or hover to feed like a flycatcher. In migration the Parula is often found in mixed species flocks with other warblers. Its flight is bouncy and it may call repeatedly on the wing. The song is rapid, buzzy like an insect. The song ascends until it holds a note, then begins to descend, trailing off. The flight call is high pitched.

**Where to Find:** Look in latter part of April and well into May in the Terrell River County Park, Wertheim Estate, Southaven Park, Bald Hill Trailhead along County Road 51 and anywhere there is a nice trail that goes deep into a deciduous or at least partly deciduous woodland.

Good Birding, Carl



## Decals and Hats are here

Decals and hats will now be available at meetings and events.

If you would like a golf shirt, t-shirt or other item with the ELIAS logo and Osprey, the logo is on file at Marlo Graphics located at 391 Riverleigh Ave. # B. This is just south of the Riverhead traffic circle at the beginning of Rt. 104. Stop in to see what they have.



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

# Worth Exploring by Sally Newbert

Many of the large birds and birds of prey are already nesting and some already have chicks. Now there are nest cams that bring you right into the nest. You can watch the babies hatching (many have recaps of the most exciting moments). Watch the babies being fed, experience the clamoring when the parents arrive with dinner. These cams, with thousands of people watching, have added greatly to our knowledge of birdlife.

Cornell has a pair of Red-tailed hawks nesting above the athletic fields. The female is Big Red. A contest named the male Ezra. Cornell also has a nest cam at a Great Blue Heron nest. The cam showed attack on the nest by a Great Horned Owl. With much screeching the Owl was sent packing. NYU also has a cam on their Red-Tailed Hawk nest.

Put *Nest Cams* into a Google search window and you will come up with eagles, owls, bluebirds and herons. I am sure the viewing will be more and more entertaining once the chicks are hatched.



## From Riverhead to Orient

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 14 on one of the spectacular spring days we are having this year, our group started at Riverhead and headed out to Orient Point. We stopped at various pull-offs and Marinas along Hubbard Ave. and Peconic Bay Blvd., the roads that hugs Flanders Bay. At the first Marina we watched a first of the season Tree Swallow fly from the mast of a sailboat. Right at our feet, a muskrat took off from under the walkway and swam to his den. We listened to the familiar Red-wing Blackbirds and Robins while a Greater

Black-backed Gull watched from a rooftop. At the next stop we admired two plump Osprey sitting on a nest. On Maratooka Lake we found two Great Blue Heron, Buffleheads, a Loon and a Ruddy Duck, in addition to the ever present Canadas. At New Suffolk, John McNeil the leader, pointed out its historical significance as the first submarine base. We watched a Killdeer on the nearby field and listened to the Song Sparrows.

On to Orient Beach State Park where the action was slow, but there was a flock of

House Finch and two Mockingbirds were fighting. The last stop was Orient Point County Park and a walk to Long Island Sound. Hoping for Field Sparrows, instead was a flock of Chickadees and we watched five Turkey Vultures circle and a Coopers Hawk fly across the field. On the Sound we found small flock of a Red-breasted Mergansers and a Loon coming into breeding plumage.

Sally Newbert



## Audubon Adventures at Kalers Pond! for Children entering grade K-5

Jay Kuhlman

Sign up now for 10 days of fun, exploration and excitement! From 9:00 am until Noon for children entering grades K-5.

The full season of ten Fundays (Thursdays and Fridays) is \$305. The dates are: July 12 & 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27 and August 2 & 3 and 9 & 10.

\*\*\*Pre-Memorial Day Sign-Up Special for the Full Season: \$260

### Program Highlights

🐦 Explore forests, pond, bays and learn about the animals that call these places home.

🐦 Observe plants and animals up close with the help of our knowledgeable staff.

🐦 Each Adventurer will receive a journal to record his/her nature experiences and memories.

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## Be a Nest Watcher

ITHACA, NY—Across the continent, birds are in a flutter of wooing and nest-building. Perhaps there's an American Robin building her mud and grass bowl on your porch light or a Northern Mockingbird weaving a twiggy nest in your shrubs. If you find a nest nearby, you have a front-row seat to the daily drama of bird life. It's also a perfect opportunity to become part of the NestWatch project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. NestWatch has been tracking trends in the nesting success of hundreds of species of birds across the country for more than 40 years.

"It's only when many thousands of volunteers are collecting data over a vast area that scientists can fully measure the impacts of environmental change and land-use on breeding birds," says Jason Martin, NestWatch project leader. "Take climate

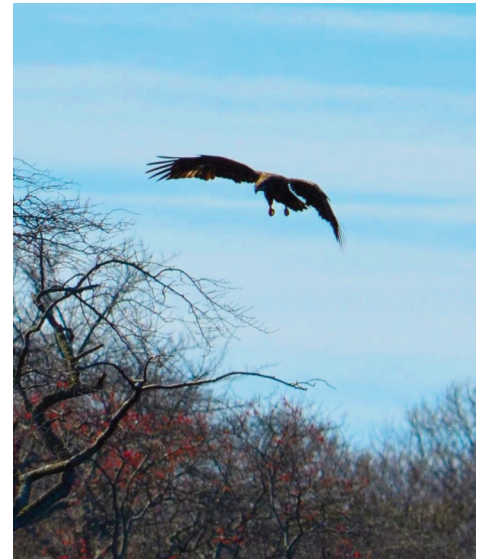
change, for example. We need a massive amount of data to investigate the potential impacts that altered climatic patterns may have on breeding birds. If birds start nesting sooner, as some species are doing, they may eventually become out of sync with their food supplies."

As a NestWatch participant, you'll visit one or more nests or nest boxes every 3 to 4 days and report what you see at [www.NestWatch.org](http://www.NestWatch.org)—when the first eggs are laid, total number of eggs and young, and when the hatchlings take their first faltering flights. After signing up, you'll first do a bit of online training to understand how best to observe nesting birds without disturbing them. You'll learn the best time to check nests and how to avoid accidentally leading predators to them.

You'll also get some tips on how to find nests. "Look for birds carrying bits of grass, twigs, feathers, and other nesting material and remember where they go," says Martin. "Males sing to mark their territories so if you see male birds singing, there's probably a nest nearby."

Participation in NestWatch is open to anyone who is interested in birds and nature and is free, although a small donation is suggested to help support the program. Signing up is easy via the NestWatch website [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org). There are online tutorials to help you along the way and a chance to share your experiences with others on Facebook. It's a great way to connect with other bird watchers and with nature in your own backyard.

## Seen and Noted in the area



This adult Bald Eagle was flying over the River down by Indian Landing. The Juvenile was by the bridge at Wertheim. A couple of other people have seen an adult in Bellport as well. Submitted by Mike Busch



Luke Ormand got this great shot of a Great Horned Owl and its Owlet. His Blog is [birdsoflongisland.blogspot.com](http://birdsoflongisland.blogspot.com) follow him as he birds Long Island.



This Long-Tailed Duck was photographed by David Sagman on March 14th at the Mattituck Inlet. a pretty bird?

## To My Feeder Watchers John McNeil

I cannot express my gratitude to all the feeder watchers who took part in our feeder survey this past season. I am now in the process of finishing up the Excel spreadsheets and the tallies. A full report will be sent to each feeder survey participant and it will also be written up in our newsletter.

It has been a exceptional year. Some of the sightings were fantastic. A male Black throated-blue Warbler wintered over in Amagansett as did Ravens in Moriches, just to mention a few. Also, I have to apologize for the difference between the order of the survey listing on web and in the newsletter, this will be corrected for next year's survey.

Again, thank you so much for participating in the survey and hope to see you again next year.

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## Chapter Renewal & Membership

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

This is a

Renewal     New Membership

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*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.*

Make check payable to:

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# The **OSP**REY

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[eliasosprey@optonline.net](mailto:eliasosprey@optonline.net)

## Mark Your Calendars

- Mon., May 7** Nature Program (see page 5)  
River Otters on Long Island, Mike Bottini, Presenter
- Wed., May 9** Nature Walk (see page 2)  
Historic Maple Swamp, Eric Salzman, Leader
- Sat., May 12** Nature Walk (see page 2)  
William Floyd Estate, Mastic, MaryLaura Lamont, Leader
- Sun., May 13** Nature Walk (see page 2)  
Terrell River County Park, Jay Kuhlman, Leader
- Wed., May 16** Nature Walk (see page 2)  
Quogue Wildlife Refuge, Eileen Schwinn, Leader
- Sat., May 19** Nature Walk (see page 2)  
Hallock State Park, MaryLaura Lamont, Leader
- Sat., May 19** Grand Opening National Wildlife Refuge Complex at Wertheim Refuge (see page 3)
- Sun., May 20** Nature Walk (see page 3)  
Old Mastic Bird Walk at the William Floyd Estate  
MaryLaura Lamont, Leader
- Sun. May 20** Nature Walk (see page 3)  
Bald Hill/Hunters Garden, Carl Starace, Leader
- Sat. June 2** Nature Walk (see page 3)  
Birding Hempstead Lake State Park
- Mon., June 4** Nature Program (see page 5)  
Birding Kazakhstan, Corey Finger, Presenter

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

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