



# *The* **OSPREY**

May June, 2007 — Vol. XXXVII No. 3

## **Nature Programs**

**Bob Adamo**

Join us for nature programs and membership meetings at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Everyone is welcome. (Directions are on our website.)

### **Monday May 7**

**7:15 PM - Nature Chat**

**7:30 PM - Chapter News**

**8:00 PM - Speaker Max Wheat**

#### **ANOTHER WAY TO ENJOY NATURE, WITH SUGGESTIONS HOW**

Max Wheat is a great friend of our chapter. He will read some of the poems he has written during a lifetime of describing nature's wonders and how mankind is influenced by them. (The title of his talk may seem unusual, but we left it alone out of respect for Max.)

### **Monday, June 4**

**7:15 PM – Nature chat**

**7:30 PM – Chapter news**

**8:00 PM – Speaker Don Riepe**

#### **THE BASQUE DEL APACHE REFUGE**

We will travel with another old friend, Don Riepe, to New Mexico's Basque del Apache Refuge and experience some of the wildlife and natural beauty found in this exciting part of our land.

## ***Dinner Presentation with Live Falcons***

Join us for a gourmet dinner and lecture on Saturday, May 5 at the Southampton INN.

The INN is offering an eco-tour package for visitors to the area. As part of the package, the Audubon Society has been invited to participate in a dinner package, which includes a slide presentation by Peter Capalinolo on birds of prey. Peter is a Scientific Assistant at the Division of Vertebrate Zoology-Ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History. His presentation will include live falcons.

The cost is \$50. Please call Francis Bee at the Southampton Inn to make your reservations – 631-283-6500. Call Bob Murray at 631-288-1183 for further information.

## ***Coordinator Needed for Backyard Feeder Survey***

The feeder survey has been suspended, because Mary Beth Stembler is no longer able to serve as coordinator. We all appreciate the years of effort Mary Beth and her father put into the survey, which included maintaining a database and producing summary reports for the newsletter and the website. We will miss her charming "Survey Notes," which were always a pleasure to read.



**We are looking for a computer savvy person to coordinate the survey and compile the statistics 6 times a year.**

This is a real chance to contribute to our citizen science program, which has been an important chapter project for many years. Please contact Eileen Schwinn at [beachmed@optonline.net](mailto:beachmed@optonline.net) or 631-728-8342.



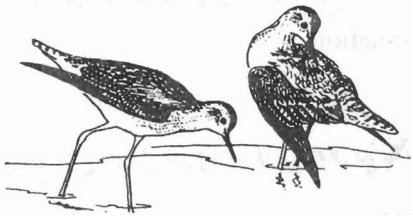
## Field Trips

Check our website for last minute changes. We sometimes schedule a field trip on the spur of the moment.

### Early Migratory Birds Along Dune Road Saturday, May 5

Dune Road from Shinnecock Inlet to Quogue always offers wonderful sights. Osprey are already back, and other shorebirds are fast filling the mudflats and meadows. Our early spring field trip will be a drive and stop tour of this popular birding area.

Meet Bob Murray at Shinnecock Inlet at 8AM for a 3 – 4 hour search down Dune Road. Call Bob at 631-288-1183 to let him know you are coming.



### Terrell River County Park Saturday, May 19

Jay Kuhlman will meet participants at 8 AM at the Flight 800 Memorial parking lot (north side of Montauk Highway, east of the Center Moriches business district), which is across from the entrance to Terrell River County Park.

We will explore the varied habitats of the park and expect to see migratory and nesting songbirds, shorebirds, and hopefully the resident great-horned owl. This trip will last approximately 3 hours.

### Hunter's Garden Wednesday, May 23

We will meet at the entrance to Hunter's Garden on Rt. 51 at 7:30 AM. If there is time and interest, we will continued on to Bald Hill and other locations. This trip will be led by Bob Adamo, who can be reached at 631-369-1958

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## Breeding Bird Census

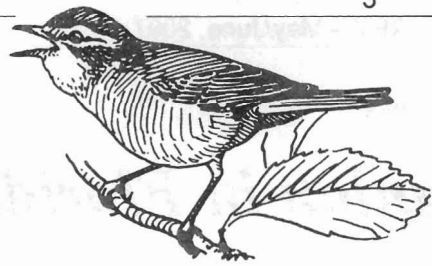


During each breeding season since 1975, our chapter has conducted annual surveys of birds Found within the same territory in which we do the annual Central Suffolk Christmas Bird Count. Over the years, 213 different species or forms have been found during these breeding season surveys. Of these, 150 were identified in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* as probably or confirmed “breeders” on Long Island.

This year's survey will be conducted anytime between June 9 and June 24. We hope that participants from previous years will join us. Newcomers are also welcome. For specific locations and dates, contact Gigi Spates at 631-765-1436.

# Birdathon – May 12th

## Save the Date!



Welcome to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society's twenty-third annual Big Day of Birding! Set for Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, this event will pit any and all birdwatchers against the elements – sun, wind, rain, sleep (or lack thereof) – in an effort to count as many bird species as possible within a 24-hour period.

**Why do we do this? Just for fun? Well, partly – after all, it is a lot of fun. But the main impetus for counting birds on May 13<sup>th</sup> is to raise money for our organization.** The Birdathon is an important fundraising event for Eastern Long Island Audubon, allowing us to sustain our programs in environmental education, conservation advocacy, and nature appreciation. Additionally, the Birdathon will raise money for the Kaler's Pond Audubon Center, so that this worthy institution may continue its efforts in environmental education and appreciation.

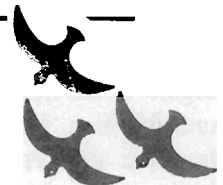
**What can you do to help?** ▶ First, you can sponsor our birdwatching teams by making a financial pledge for each bird species seen or heard. Usually, our totals range from 160 to 180 species. ▶ Second, you can make an outright donation to the Birdathon. ▶ Third, you can form a team of your own to count the birds. The rules are simple: let us know beforehand that you will be participating; only count birds of whose identity you are certain, and confine your explorations to Suffolk County. You are welcome to participate for as long or as short a time period as you would like on May 12<sup>th</sup>. ▶ And fourth, you can join one of our teams out in the field for part or all of the day. All levels of birdwatchers – including beginners – are invited to participate in the Birdathon.

In closing, if you would like to take part in any of the ways mentioned -- or have questions about the event -- please contact Beth Gustin (roogus@aol.com or 631-874-9424).

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### BIRDATHON 2007

Please accept my pledge of: 5 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_ 10 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_ 50 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_ \$1 per species \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_



Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. My check is enclosed. [Checks should be made payable to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, Inc.]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this Birdathon coupon to: Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, P.O. Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206.

## Social News

# *Reunion in Florida*

This past winter, several members of our chapter descended on Vero Beach. Peg Caraher (Past President) and Shirley Morrison (Newsletter Editor) spent the first three months of the year in a villa across the street from Past President, Roz James. In February, board member Ridgie Barnett stayed with Roz for a week. Later in the month, Sue Little and President Eileen Schwinn visited nearby Sebastian and hooked up with the Vero contingent for a field trip.

## *Birding in Florida*

Roz moved to Vero a few years ago and knows the local birding hot spots well. She guided the group through Pelican Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Merritt Island Wildlife Sanctuary, and other less well known spots such as the Indian River County Wetlands Treatment Facility, a 135 acre wetland created as a wastewater treatment system on land previously maintained as a sod and citrus farm. In this wetlands system, specifically chosen aquatic plants filter and clean the water. According to Audubon Society records, 98 bird species have been observed there including several heron species, sandhill cranes, roseate spoonbills, wood ducks, egrets, anhingas, and bald eagles.

Needless to say, the number and variety of birds in all these spots was breathtaking. Some members of the group saw their first pileated woodpeckers and frigate birds, not to mention river otters, wild boar, and dolphins. Flocks of roseate spoonbills put on a dramatic performance. Sandhill cranes were seen doing mating dances, building nests, sitting on their nests, and walking with their young.

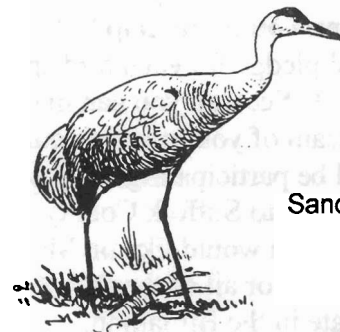
On the golf courses, killdeer seemed as numerous as sparrows do on Long Island, and several heron species frequented the water hazards. At a local park, three young great horned owls in a nest stared back at spectators.

An eco-cruise on the St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve led by Deena and Dana Wade of the St. Lucie Audubon Society was a special treat. The boat stopped at a rookery teeming with great egrets spreading their feathers like peacocks in spectacular



courtship displays, as well as wood storks clacking their bills while mating. The boat also passed within a few feet of six yellow-crowned night herons.

The Wades conduct regular cruises on their covered pontoon boat into the backwaters of “the real Florida.” They donate part of the proceeds to St. Lucie Audubon. If you visit Florida and you would like to go on one of their cruises, call River Lilly at 772-489-8344.



Sand hill crane

## *Passing the torch*

While reminiscing about the years she spent going on ELIAS field trips, Roz said that everything she knows about birds, she learned from Jim Clinton and John Ruscica, a point that will be appreciated by old timers who remember birding with these accomplished gentlemen who led our field trips for so many years.

Whenever she goes birding, Roz wears a hat and T-shirt with our logo. In other words, she is a walking advertisement for our chapter. Since moving to Florida, she has introduced many of her friends and neighbors to the joys of birding. Recently, she was invited to join the board of directors of the local Audubon chapter – Pelican Island Audubon Society.

All of us who escaped the cold are grateful to Roz for making this a memorable reunion.

# *Kaler's Pond Audubon Nature Center*

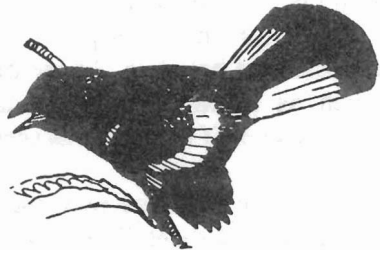


Jay Kuhlman (SJKuhlman@aol.com)

## *Spring events*

We will hold our Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:30. There will be a live birds of prey demonstration, tree and seed planting, singing and games.

In May, we will participate in Birdathon to introduce people to birding and raise money for the Center and for ELIAS. (See details on page 3.)



## *Summer plans*

We have hired a seasonal employee, Adam McHeffey, to help run the programs this summer. There will be changes in the time the center is open and also some programs done with the Town of Brookhaven. We will also be able to use the Town building for programs in inclement weather.

Weekly programs:

- **Outdoor Escapades** – Thursdays 11 AM to noon, June through August

Nature Rambles – Saturdays from 10 AM to noon, June through September.

Evening and night hikes will be announced by email and on the website.

Other programs will be listed on the website.

We hope to continue to enlarge our bird feeding area and increase both the butterfly and natural planting gardens to introduce people to wildlife friendly plants and trees.

We also hope to put the trail guide in a form that can be downloaded from the internet for anyone to use on the nature trail.

## *Thanks to Annette Oliveira*

Annette stepped down as Nature Center Director this past fall, and we want to thank her for all of her contributions. We realize how much time and effort she put in to help the Center get to where it is today.

[www.kalerspondaudubon.homestead.com](http://www.kalerspondaudubon.homestead.com)

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## *Scholarship Winners*



Congratulations to our nature camp scholarship winners.

Meghan Davis, age 14, of Riverhead Middle School will go to Camp DeBruce. Albert Carini, age 14, a home-schooled resident of Flanders, will go to Pack Forest Camp. Timothy Palmer, age 14, from Riverhead High School will go to Camp Colby. If the camp program is not filled, Alexa White, age 14, from Riverhead Middle School will also attend a nature camp.

We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

# TOWN PERSPECTIVES



## *The Breeding Bird Census in East Hampton*



Chris Roberts  
East Hampton Natural Resources Department

In the summers of 1993 and 1994, a breeding bird survey was undertaken by the East Hampton Natural Resources Department to ascertain the number and species of breeding birds in our larger open space areas. This survey was repeated in 2004. All surveys used the strip map method developed by J. T. Emlen (Emlen, 1984). All the surveys used behavioral criteria as outlined by the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas.

While there may have been no actual proof of breeding in certain cases, for the purpose of these surveys, any bird seen or heard on three or more separate visits to the transect during the time of the surveys was considered to be breeding. Any adult bird that was seen feeding young or any fledglings observed with adults were recorded as such and were considered breeding. Several of Long Island's veteran birders volunteered their time and efforts, as they did ten years ago, otherwise the latest survey would not have been possible. Survey repeaters include Jim Ash, Lisa D'Andrea, Joe Giunta, Sandra Hunter, Pat Lindsay, Harrison Maas, Larry Penny, Eric Salzman, and myself.

### *The process*

The survey covered 11 areas in 1993 and 5 areas in 1994. In 2004, 10 of the original 16 areas were resurveyed, and two new transects were added for a total of 12. The earlier surveys came up with 53 species as breeders, while in 2004, 61 species were observed breeding. The nest territories totaled 526 in 1993 and 276 in 1994. Nest territories in 2004 added up to 543.

Observers were asked to begin surveying one half hour before dawn (except for nocturnal species, when the work was done at night) and walk the pre-marked transect, stopping at designated observation stations every 100 feet. At each station, the observer would

record any bird that was heard or seen in a four minute period and record the species' location on a field map depicting the transect and stations. Birds observed between the stations or flying over the stations were not ignored. A minimum of four visits was required during the breeding season, at least one week apart. Some areas were visited 12 times with an average of eight visits per area. A single observer walked most transects (which averaged 3,200 ft. long), while two observers covered a few areas. Over 350 acres were canvassed in this fashion. Birds that were seen or heard only once over the entire survey period were considered possible breeders. Birds that were seen or heard on two separate visits were considered probable breeders, and birds that were observed on 3 or more separate visits were considered confirmed breeders. As mentioned above, behavior such as parents feeding young led to a confirmed status, even if the bird was seen only once.

Information from the database was transferred from the field map to a field sheet. Then, for each species, nesting territories were plotted on a map. The final map shows clusters of observations for each breeding bird of each species, which is presumed to define a pair's nesting territory



Black-and-white warbler

### *What we learned*

The data from these surveys can be compared with the results of the censuses done in 1980–1985 and 2000–2005 in East Hampton quadrangles for the New York State Atlas of Breeding Birds and other local records archived with this department in order to see the ups and downs of given breeding species over a 25-year period. While this may not be enough time to

spot long-term trends, it certainly shows us which direction our native avifauna is headed.

**Between the 1993 and 2004 surveys, for example, we can see a precipitous decline in the number of eastern towhees and whip-poor-wills in East Hampton.** In comparing our results with larger extralimital studies, regional population trends can often be seen. For example, whip-poor-will counts are down for other parts of the South Fork and for eastern Long Island in general.

Figuring out the causes for a given downturn is much more difficult. For the whip-poor-will, it is probably tied to increased development, more night lighting in the woods, surges in fox populations, feral cats and the like. Black-and-white warblers and northern bobwhite also suffered declines. Every little piece of the puzzle is important in itself and in sum with other like surveys. Continued monitoring of our bird life in the future can only add to our knowledge base and provide a comparison to the baseline data that came before.

**On a more positive note, certain bird species are increasing in number, most notably the wild turkey, Ben Franklin's choice for our nation's avian symbol. Ospreys have rebounded very well, of course, and are the subject of a separate survey. A few unusual birds we discovered breeding were the Lawrence's warbler in Montauk (this hybrid blue-winged warbler is rare indeed – only 17 were found between 1980 and 1985 in the entire state), the red-breasted nuthatch, hermit thrush, indigo bunting and fish crow in the Northwest Woods and the Northern Parula, Grasshopper and sharp-tailed sparrows in Hither Woods.**

### *How we can use the information*

The accumulation of a wealth of natural history observations of diverse kinds for as many plants and animals as possible, terrestrial, aquatic and marine, covering all of the habitats in a given municipality such as the Town of East Hampton, can only help to guide the growth of that municipality in a way that is compatible with its natural environment. As with the legendary canary in the coal mine, birds are particularly well suited to warn us of problems in the environment at an early stage. Just as the coal miners knew they had to quickly abandon the shaft when the canary keeled over, the reduction in the number of

breeding bird species presages poor land use or other environmental problems.

A gain in the number of birds may be a sign that land use practices are beneficial, e.g., preserving forests and grasslands, dunes and beaches, for bird nesting habitat.

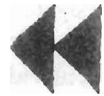
Copies of these surveys are available on request.



Bobwhite Quail

## *The Magnificent Central Pine Barrens*

Marty Shea, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Town of Southampton



It has been over 11 years since the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted, yet preservation of this extraordinary Long Island wilderness still stands as one of the greatest accomplishments in the natural history of the East End.

Within the borders of Southampton Town, nearly 22,000 acres have been protected in the highly sensitive Core Preservation Area (CPA), with close to 8,000 acres set aside as a buffering Compatible Growth Area (CGA) to shield and secure the inner core. In the CGA are close to 1,000 acres of specially designated Critical Resources Areas (CRA), hot spots of biodiversity or wooded corridors, whose preservation is needed to save wildlife habitat, rare species or recreational greenways, such as added park space or critical trail linkages for the Paumanok Path.

As of January 2007, approximately 14,500 acres of the Core, 1,500 acres of the CGA, and 300 acres of CRA are well preserved and are in public ownership, with the remainder of the Core mostly in private conservation, or in the process of being secured by transferring development rights off the land. As for

Pine Barrens continued from page 7

the CGA and CRAs, it is likely that at least half the remaining land area will still be preserved through land purchases, development clustering, and clearing restrictions over time.

### ***What makes the Pine Barrens so special?***

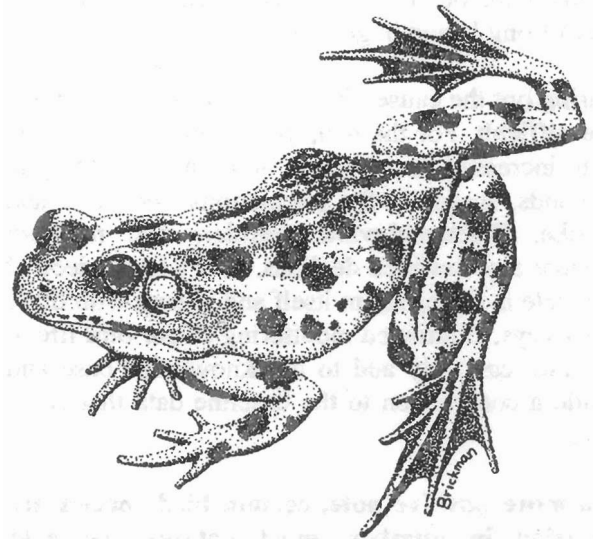
**While the pine, oak, and scrubby woodlands of our area seem commonplace to many of us, worldwide, the unusual palette of ecological communities, which make up the Pine Barrens, rank as uncommon to extremely rare.**

Few who live here recognize the irreplaceability of this wonderful ecosystem, not only within the bounds of the Central Pine Barrens, but all around us on the east end. In fact, there are only a handful of other places in the world, where you can witness the unique collection of plants and animals you see every day in the Pine Barrens, making this ecosystem an extremely important conservation area for maintenance of biological diversity worldwide.

Scarlet tanager, pitch pine, birdfoot violet, buckmoth, eastern hognose snake, and glacially formed kettle ponds are all startlingly beautiful expressions of this finest of Long Island's remaining wild land. Even more precious is the solitude of unbroken forest and vast expanses of pristine pineland, almost free of human disturbance and roads.



All of these natural wonders instill in us a genuine humility, respect, and affection, for the Pine Barrens is something that is uniquely and unmistakably ours. In fact, this recognition and our delight in knowing that the land use plan for the region has secured forever these natural treasures is assuredly one of the greatest rewards of the last eleven years.



### ***Taking pride in our legacy***

The Central Pine Barrens has become so much more than a place to protect groundwater quality and open space. As east enders, it is our very soul, our roots, our history, our gift, and our natural inheritance that we take great pleasure in leaving for the future, so that those who come after us will be enriched by a higher quality of life than we enjoy here today.

In the end, it is our legacy and what we did for the sake of the wild for which we will be remembered and judged by generations to come. For now, we can take pride in knowing that we did our best to live as a people who gave something back to the Pine Barrens, the natural world which made us who we are.

Perhaps this is the true relevance of preserving the Central Pine Barrens, for it is in securing this magnificent ecosystem for the future that our real sense of values and identity will live eternally.



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*This newsletter reaches over 500 households, primarily in the Townships of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, and Brookhaven. Our readers are a target audience for nature-friendly businesses. For rates, contact newsletter editor Shirley Morrison at 631-208-3894 or [shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us).*

***Turn your love of nature into a legacy***

Please consider leaving a bequest to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society in your will or insurance policy. This will help us to continue our mission of education, conservation, and nature appreciation. Thank you for your support

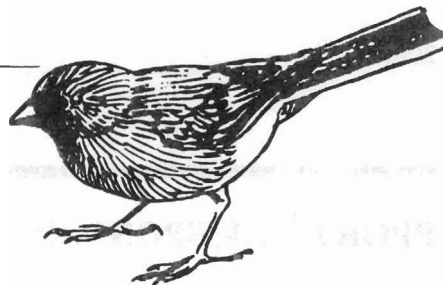


## Membership Corner

John McNeil

The spring migration is already upon us. It's time to dust off the binoculars, get out the bird book, call some friends, and go out for some exercise.

Before heading out, check Dianna Taggart's website <http://www.libirding.com>. This site is devoted to birding on Long Island. The "Sightings and Reports" menu selection is updated daily. It is worth checking before starting on your birding activities. Reports are submitted by local birders making the rounds of local hot spots that might be



in your area. Being armed with this information will add to your viewing pleasure.

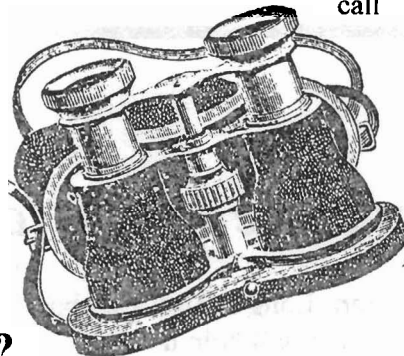
Bird watching is a great hobby that will be with you for the rest of your life. Even if you don't get out very often, you always spot something of interest wherever you go.

I would also like to remind members to check their mailing labels for membership expiration dates. Please renew. And to those members who renewed last month, thank you for your continued support.

## Field Trips Offered by Other Organizations

**William Floyd Estate in Mastic – May 12 at 9:00 AM:** In honor of International Migratory Bird Day, the National Park Service is offering this bird walk. The Estate has a range of habitats including woods, fields, creeks, and marshes, so a wide variety of birds will be found on this 2.5 miles walk. In particular, we will be looking for neotropical migrants such as warblers and vireos. Bring binoculars. We will meet in the parking lot of the William Floyd Estate. Call trip leader Mary Laura Lamont at 631-722-5542 for information. There is no fee for this walk.

**Hallockville Museum Farm in Northville (Riverhead) – May 19 at 9:00 AM:** This will be a Spring Migration Walk through the fields and woods of the old Hallock homestead, now the new Jamesport-Keyspan State Park. Peak migration season brings many migrating birds to this beautiful spot on the Long Island Sound. Bring binoculars. Fee: \$5.00 for Hallockville members, \$6.00 for nonmembers. The fees go to Hallockville's educational school programs. Call trip leader Mary Laura Lamont at 631-722-5542 for information, or call the Museum Farm at 298-5292



## Did you lose a hat?

*In late January or early February, an ELIAS baseball cap was found at the Roosevelt Nature Center, Jones Beach near Smith's Larkspur viewing. Contact Eileen at 728-8342 or write to [beachmed@optonline.net](mailto:beachmed@optonline.net) to retrieve your missing hat.*

# State of the Birds



Audubon's State of the Birds Report uses information collected by Citizen Scientists to communicate the state of the birds to the American public and focus valuable resources on the most vulnerable bird species.

Audubon's watch list identifies bird species in the US that need help. The first study (1966 – 2003) determined that rusty blackbirds were declining rapidly in North America and merlins were increasing rapidly. It also documented declines in Harris sparrows. The State of the Birds Report published in the October, 2004 issue of Audubon

magazine identified declining species in several habitats, but grasslands and shrublands hosted the highest proportion of species of conservation concern. A full 70% of grassland species are declining significantly, including eastern and western meadowlarks and bobolinks.

To learn more about this project, efforts to improve conservation provisions in the next Farm Bill, and how you can help, go to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

## DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Eileen Schwinn, President – 728-8342  
 Al Scherzer, Past President – 728-2898  
 Beth Gustin, Vice President – 874-9424  
 Larry Sturm, Recording Secretary  
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 Bob Adamo, Director (9/08)  
 Mike Marino, Director (9/08)  
 Robert Murray, Director (9/08)  
 Dan Wilson, Director (9/08)  
 Ridgie Barnett, Director (9/08)

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Membership, John McNeil (281-2623)  
 Conservation, Gigi Spates  
 Programs (open)  
 KP Nature Center Liaison, Al Scherzer  
 Education, Evelyn Voulgarelis  
 Nature Chats, Steve Biasetti  
 Hospitality, Ridgie Barnett,  
 Feeder Survey (open)  
 Field Trips (open)  
 Publicity, Peggy Caraher  
 Web Master, Annette Oliveira  
 Bluebird Restoration Gigi Spates

**NEWSLETTER EDITING & LAYOUT:** Shirley Morrison 208-3894 ([shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us))  
 1145 Middle Rd. Apt. 8C,  
 Riverhead 11901  
*The next deadline is June 1*

## Events Calendar

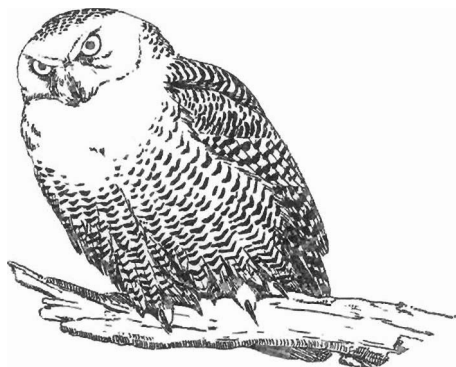
### May

- 5 Field Trip – Dune Rd. – p 2
- 7 Nature Program – p 1
- 12 Birdathon – p 3
- 19 Field Trip – Terrell River – p 2
- 23 Field Trip – Hunter's Gdn – p 2

### June

- 4 Nature Program – p 1
- 5<sup>+</sup> Dinner Presentation – p 1
- 9-24 Breeding Bird Census – p 2

*Also see Kaler's Pond Nature Center Events on pg 5.*



**Our Vision in a Nutshell** – To be an inspiration to those who feel a sense of kinship about Long Island by encouraging an appreciation for the natural world and a commitment to the environment.

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

For \$15 a year, you can receive 6 copies of this newsletter. You will also 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.)

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*Please consider sending gift memberships to your friends.*

## ***Horseshoe Crab Alert***

For the sake of horseshoe crabs, please avoid driving the stretch of Dune Road between Quogue Bridge and Ponquoque Bridge at the two high tides of the day around the full moon dates of May 2 and May 31 and the new moon date of May 16. At these high tides, bay water floods Dune Road, often bringing large numbers of spawning horseshoe crabs onto the roads, where they are crushed by our vehicles.

These ancient bay bottom scavengers are an essential part of bay ecosystems, as well as a key to the successful migration of some seriously declining shorebirds such as the red knot. Red knots and others fly nonstop from southern South America to Delaware Bay and similar east coast bays like ours with exquisite timing to eat the eggs of horseshoe crabs. After fueling themselves on the tiny eggs, the birds are able to continue their long journey to the Arctic region for summer breeding.

So what's the problem? Horseshoe crabs, once seemingly limitless, have declined because of over-harvesting for the baiting of conch and eel fisheries. Let's stay alert and play a positive role in this important conservation effort.



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### **THE OSPREY**

Published by:

Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, Inc.  
PO Box 206  
East Quogue, NY 11942-0206

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

Nature Programs	1
Dinner Presentation	1
Feeder Survey Coordinator Needed	1
Field Trips	2
Breeding Bird Survey	2
Birdathon	3
Reunion in Florida	4
Kaler's Pond Nature Center	5
Breeding Bird Census in East Hampton	6
The Magnificent Central Pine Barrens	7
Support Our Sponsors	9
Membership Corner	10
Field Trips Offered by Others	10
State of the Birds	11
Events Calendar	11
Chapter Membership Application	11

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