



EASTERN LONG ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY – *From the Barrens to the Bays*
Formerly Moriches Bay Audubon, established 1967

The **OSPREY**

September/October 2014 — Vol. XXXIX No. 5

Join ELIAS for a Dinner Celebration
featuring Christopher Paparo's presentation
Falconry... An ancient, but not forgotten sport

Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 pm

The East Wind in Wading River, NY

Cocktails, Dinner, Raffles and Fun

For more information on the dinner & the speaker, Chris Paparo, see page 8



The President's Corner

Draft Black Skimmer Conservation Management Plan

Byron Young

In Mid-July the New York State DEC released a Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Black Skimmer, a bird of special concern in New York State. Public Comment will be accepted on the Draft Conservation Management Plan through September 2, 2014. At this writing I am in my second reading of the document and am beginning to craft comments relative to the plan. While I support this document I find it is need some editing in order to be a truly useful document in the management of the Black Skimmer in New York.

The document is at best a general guidance document, however, I need to focus more closely on the proposed management actions and options put forth in the document. The document calls for maintaining a self-sustaining population that is secure in perpetuity, a lofty goal given the range of this species and the pressures the species is under from competing forces for its chosen habitats. I certainly support maintain a self-sustaining population but recognize that we would have to include partners across the species range to even come close to secure such efforts.

The plan calls for management actions that include:

- Enhancing existing habitat through beach maintenance such as raking, re-grading, and cleaning practices;
- Restoring historical nesting areas;
- Placing wrack (dead vegetation) in both natural and artificial ways;
- Placing sand and dredge spoil on beaches and salt marsh islands to counteract erosion and marsh island subsidence;
- Maintaining the integrity of vegetative communities along coastal beaches and salt marsh islands;
- Attracting skimmers to enhanced or restored areas by using visual and auditory methods; and
- Providing Best Management Practices for local managers to implement on a site specific basis.

These are all lofty management actions and the plan needs to lay out in some detail how each will be achieved. After my first reading, I did not come away with a good sense that the draft plan as written provides a sufficient level of detail in order to achieve these goals.

The draft plan calls for the establishment of more accurate survey methods using remote sensing technology, among other techniques. I agree with the need for additional survey techniques conducted by researchers, management agencies and citizen scientists. The plan fails to recognize the contribution that can be provided by the many citizen scientists who make daily observations along our coastline.

The document also provides a research actions section; and outreach actions section in its 68 pages. These will take time to review and offer appropriate comments relative to this document. In conclusion,

I am encouraged that the DEC is taking a look at the Black Skimmer. In looking for other Black Skimmer management plans, I only found one for Florida which addresses all of its shore nesting shorebirds, which I will suggest is something that New York should consider. If Black Skimmers, Terns and gulls nest in close proximity it seems logical to develop a management plan for all of those species in one document.

I will continue to review this document and offer what I hope will be taken as constructive comments prior to the deadline. I would encourage anyone else with interest in this subject to review the document as well and to provide comments. The document can be found on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's webpage, under Press Releases for Wednesday July 16, 2014. The Press Release link is found in the top right hand corner of the webpage. ■

Nature Walks

Sept. 13, 2014 meet at 10:00 am /Rain Date Sept. 20th

Sunken Forest

National Wildlife Refuge, Fire Island

The Sunken Forest on Fire Island is a rare maritime holly forest, the only one on the east coast. We hope to catch song birds and raptors along the shoreline.

Meet in the Sayville Ferry terminal parking lot. The ferry leaves for Sailor's Haven at 10:30 am. We ask that you try to meet at 10:00 am. There are several ferries leaving from this terminal, so please be sure to get on the ferry to Sailor's Haven. The cost of the ferry is \$13.00 round trip per person. The ferry takes about 20 minutes each way. The return trip leaves Fire Island at 2:00 or 4:15 pm. Bring water, and lunch. The walk will be along the 1.5 mile boardwalk that meanders through the Sunken Forest.

October 4, 2014 at 8:30

Smith Point County Park

Leader Byron Young

Park your car at the western end of the world's largest parking lot and meet the group at the Ranger Station/Visitor Center. We will do some ocean watching and then go on to look for the migrating birds of prey, wintering waterbirds and other birds on their way south.

Watch the weather and dress appropriately. Don't forget your binoculars and scopes. ■

ELIAS Meetings

*Meetings are held at Quogue Wildlife Refuge at
3 Old Country Road in Quogue, NY. All are welcome, there is no charge.*

Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:15

From the Swordbills of Ecuador to the Finches of Darwin: Birding Ecuador and the Galapagos

Presenter: Donna Schulman & Ian Resnick

The Galapagos Islands are on every birder's bucket list. Known for its Boobies, Giant Tortoises, and the Finches that inspired Darwin's theory of evolution, the islands are home to 44 endemic species and subspecies spread out across the archipelago. A birder's dream and challenge. On the mainland, the cloud forests of northwest Ecuador have become a mecca for birders longing to see Sword-billed Hummingbirds, Giant Antpittas, and Andean Cock-of-the-Rock leks. Donna and Ian visited the Galapagos in 2011, also birding Yanacocha Reserve and Mindo beforehand. Their photographs and video of the birds, reptiles, fur seals, butterflies, and other wildlife encountered in their journey (including the most dangerous creature they've encountered yet--an assassin caterpillar!) illustrate the unique wonders of these areas. They will talk about their adventures, what it was like to visit the many islands one needs to visit to see every bird (but one) that live on the Galapagos Islands, and navigate the nature reserves of Ecuador, touching on the conservation challenges of ecotourism.

For **Donna Schulman**, birding, photography, and writing combine all the joys of life, at home and on the road. Donna does the Book Review beat for the popular birding blog, 10,000 Birds and also writes book reviews for ABA's Birding magazine. Volunteer work stints have included co-planning the recent NYSOA conference, editing the QCBC newsletter, and working at the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory (sadly, now closed). Her photographs have been featured by BirdWatching Magazine; the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; NJ Audubon, and BirdsEye (the birding apps based on eBird). You can also see them on her blog, Queensgirl, (<http://queensgirl130.wordpress.com/>) and on her Flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/queensgirl/>

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

Monday, October 6, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Life Beneath the Waves: an Uncommon Look at Some Common Marine Life

Presenter: Todd Gardner

Why don't fish get crushed under the pressure of the deep sea? How can whales hold their breath for so long? If corals have been around for more than 300 million years, why are they in such grave danger over a small increase in global temperature? Why do sharks really attack people? If the male seahorse gets pregnant and gives birth, why don't they just call that the female? What does a marine biologist fear most in the water?

These and many other questions will be answered as we spotlight some well known, as well as some under appreciated marine creatures and their remarkable adaptations that make them so fascinating to us.

Todd Gardner is a professor of marine biology at Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead, NY. His life and his career have both been shaped by his passion for marine life and he has written numerous scientific and popular articles about his research and experiences collecting, keeping, and culturing marine organisms. Todd's professional background includes work on a National Geographic documentary, commercial aquaculture at C-quest Hatchery in Puerto Rico, and an 11-year term at the Long Island Aquarium where he spent much of his time developing techniques for rearing marine fish larvae. To date he has raised more than 50 species. In 2013 Todd received the prestigious Aquarist of the Year Award from the Marine Aquarium Society of North America (MASNA). In his spare time, Todd dives, photographs marine life, runs marathons, and plays in a blues band. ■

**Make Your Dinner Reservations
by October 6 for the
Dinner Celebration at
The East Wind on
Wednesday, October 15.**

Hunting in Old Mastic

MaryLaura Lamont

By the late 1800's to the early 1900's there were some well-known artists who used to come to hunt and sketch the copious amounts of water birds on the south shore of Long Island, particularly, Mastic. They had friends there by the last name of Floyd and Nichols, who just happened to own much land on the Mastic peninsula. Great gunning parties were the thing to do in those days. You would hunt ducks, shorebirds and upland game birds until you dropped. It's just the way it was, and everyone used to do it.



John Treadwell Nichols journal, pen and ink, 1915

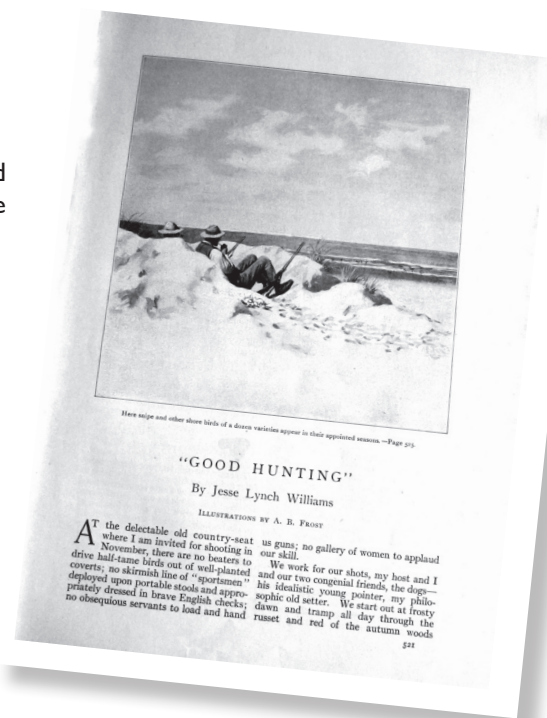
Lynn Bogue Hunt, pen and ink, 1923



Little did they realize that the guns and gunning parties would almost eliminate the shorebirds until finally some laws were enacted to protect shorebirds from extinction and overhunting by the 1920's.

A.B.Frost, Lynne Bogue Hunt and Sheldon Leavitt, Jr. were some of the wildlife artists who knew the Floyds or Nichols. Lynne Bogue Hunt was the field artist for *Field and Stream* magazine for over 20 years, and he painted numerous Federal Duck stamps. When he came to visit John T. Nichols, the famous naturalist, ornithologist, ichthyologist and herpetologist, he would sign his name into the traditional Floyd-Nichols guest books, and he would sketch wonderful pen and ink scenes of ducks or shorebirds found in the Mastic marshes. His artwork today is highly prized and is found in many museums as well as private collections.

I had always wondered if Arthur B. Frost, the famous illustrator and painter, came to the William Floyd Estate, to hunt and paint. There is a wonderful chromolithograph print of his in the collections of the Estate,



Article in Scribner's magazine, 1916, by Jesse Lynch Williams, illustrations by A.B. Frost

and it certainly could have been drawn on the marshes in Mastic. I finally found my proof that Frost was here just the other day by chance when doing annual inventory work. I stumbled across a beautiful story published in 1916 and written by an invited guest, Jesse Lynch Williams, and Billy Floyd, hunting on the Estate. All the illustrations for that story were done by A.B.Frost. One of the many sketches show the two men, setting off with their hunting dogs, on a chilly autumn morning, in front of the old Mastic house. The illustration is beautiful and very detailed, so I take it that Frost was certainly here at one time or another. Williams and Floyd met in college at Princeton and became life long friends. Williams penned many poems about being at Mastic, and how lovely it was to be there at any time of the year. He went on to receive the first Pulitzer prize awarded for drama in 1918.

John T. Nichols married Cornelia Floyd in the Old Mastic House in 1910, so it started to be called the Nichols Estate and this was the name of the place well into the 1970's. J.T.N. had his own sketch book on shorebirds. In one instance in 1915, he is out birding with Ludlow Griscolm, the famous ornithologist, and he talks about a

Phalarope the two men spot as they are canoeing in the marshes of Mastic. They were surprised by it and tried to collect it to document it. Nichols states "Ludlow tried to hit it with the oar!" That's how close they came to the bird but the bird escaped the oar onslaught. So, Nichols sketched the bird and related the story in his journal. These men would take many Mastic birds, skin them, and bring them into the Museum of Natural History where they both worked. Nichols was the Ichthyologist there and Griscolm the Ornithologist. This is what men did in those days to document sightings. Their collections at the Museum are there to this day. Ludlow Griscolm would eventually be the birders champion to go on and develop the "new way" of documenting birds by observing the living bird and its field marks, instead of killing it. His strong promotion of using binoculars, good observations of field marks, behaviors, and voice identification changed the birding world forever and this new "field guide system" ultimately influenced Roger Tory Peterson. The rest is history. It must have been quite the sight to see these two titans of men in a Mastic marsh trying to clobber a hapless Phalarope with an oar!

While not too much is known about the

personal life of artist Sheldon Leavitt, Jr. besides the fact of his numerous hunting scenes, we do know he was at the Estate and that his sister had married into the family. There is a beautiful oil painting of his done on the property that dates to 1877, depicting a Floyd hunting in the lower acreage with his dogs.

Whether they came to old Mastic for solace and quietness, for beauty, for hunting, or just visiting friends or family, the artwork depicting life there is beautiful and striking. The family always knew Mastic was special and they wanted it preserved and they did so it by giving the entire Estate, the Old Mastic House and it's furnishings and property to the National Park Service in 1976.

Some of this artwork is now on display at the William Floyd Estate for the first time ever, and I would strongly encourage birders, and all art lovers, to come for a visit. There are special talks just on the artwork too! Call (631) 399-2030 for up-to-date information. The hours change seasonally.

All photos that appear with this article were used courtesy of the William Floyd Estate, FINS. ■

Sheldon Leavitt, Jr. oil, detail of hunting dog, 1877



Helping the Monarchs

Gigi Spates

My husband and I have been lucky enough three times in the past month to watch a single monarch butterfly flit around our side yard patch of mature milkweed plants. Each butterfly has been a female. How do we know? Because we have seen her select a milkweed leaf, land on top of the leaf, and, while grasping the edge of the leaf, bend her abdomen underneath and lay her solitary tiny whitish egg on the under side of that chosen leaf, then fly about some more, only to do the same thing again. What a privilege to experience this dwindling butterfly species carry forth a new generation!

In the past we have planted milkweed seeds that ELIAS itself has given out several different years. Milkweed plants have emerged from some of these seeds and have flourished year after year. Also, though, we have witnessed a large patch of milkweeds appear on their own in a sunny part of our yard that we have left unmown for about five years now. We are lucky that our yard was "selected" by some passing, wind-blown seeds, unbeknownst to us! What an interesting experience to watch not only what re-appears there each spring, like the milkweed plants, but what appears new to the area. You too might try not mowing a part of your grassy lawn to see what appears.

If you have milkweeds growing on your property or happen to be around a patch somewhere else, stand patiently if you see the beautiful orange, black and white monarch surveying the plants. It may well be a female as monarchs only lay their eggs on one of the many species of milkweeds that are native to different parts of our country and Canada.

For more information on the monarchs' association with milkweed plants you can always check the internet or stop by your local library. ■

Jean Noe — A Lifetime of Birding

Kathleen Heenan

Last summer I wrote in this newsletter about teaching birding in underserved New York City public schools, grades 2- 5 in a program called *For the Birds* sponsored by New York State Audubon. Shortly afterwards, Sally Newbert, newsletter editor, received a letter from Jean Noe, the 1967 founder of Moriches Bay Audubon Society (now ELIAS) and the Kahlers Pond Center. In the letter (which delighted me) Mrs. Noe praised the work of *For The Birds*, recounting visits by Audubon staff members to her school to teach about birds in 1934 to 1936. Subsequently, birding became her passion and avocation.

She had received this newsletter via her son Bill in her retirement home in Elgin, Illinois, 40 miles northwest of Chicago. When I learned of the letter, I spoke with Mrs. Noe and told her and that I would try to meet and interview her after the winter thaw. She told me not to wait too long because she was 91.

Quite often, I think about my own students and wonder whether some of them will become birders or at least appreciate nature. Now, perhaps I had an opportunity to find out how Mrs. Noe's early introduction to birding brought on her passion in her adult years. So, along with my husband, Clary Olmstead, and one of the founders and lead teachers of *For The Birds*, Wendy Paulson, now living in Barrington, IL, I visited Mrs. Noe in late June.

Jean Post Noe was born in Ronkonkama in 1923 and grew up in Blue Point. Her parents were not birders but they were outdoors people. "My father had a boat. We went out on the bay and spent lots of time at the beach." Her grandfather was a guide who hunted deer and led hunting parties. "My sister and I were outdoors all the time. We especially loved looking for the trailing arbutus and their beautiful white blossoms in the open fields near our home in the springtime. I was always a walker. You can't go for a walk without seeing birds."

Mrs. Noe and her 12 classmates were the beneficiaries of a program similar to *For The Birds* (FTB). It too was sponsored by Audubon. When she was in gram-

mar school in the Blue Point Union Free School, two or three times a year during 1934 to 36 one or two men who worked with Audubon came to her school. "It was something we absolutely loved." What Mrs. Noe remembers most was their efforts "to discourage anybody from destroying (the birds)." The students were given bird cards (Wendy thought they might be the sets of cards produced by Arm & Hammer Soda with a bird photo on one side and a description on the flip side). They also were given "The Green Book Birds of America", one of a set of three books. Mrs. Noe's son had ordered one of the books on Amazon and they presented it to me. The 3"x 3" paperback book has pictures and flowery descriptions of about 60 birds.

When Mrs. Noe began birding as an adult, she was spurred on by field trips with Roy Wilcox. "He was a great inspiration. There were three of us in the back seat. Roy and his wife were in the front. We would be riding along with the windows closed when Roy would say "I just heard such and such bird." We would stop and there would be the bird, correctly identified by Roy. He had such keen hearing."

In 1958, at the age of 35, Mrs. Noe developed cancer. Birding helped her survive that restrictive year. She recalled: "Birding became so important to me during the year which I was recovering. I studied the birds. Mostly the birds that I could see from my windows. Fortunately, we were in a very good location and a couple of my neighbors also put out food for the birds. Senix Creek ran behind the houses across the street from me and Moriches Bay was at the end of Union Avenue. I always had from 18 to 24 species at my feeders daily. It was interesting to me to see the different reactions to a situation from the various birds."

Later, while living in Center Moriches with her husband, Bill, and her four children, three boys and a girl, she and four of her women friends formed a bird club. "We started out as a group simply sharing our sightings and had a good time." This group of women, Carol Tveekrem, Ethel Havins, Marcella Borgart and Ida Johnson, at the suggestion of Mrs. Noe, decided to



Wendy Paulson and Kathleen Heenan visit Jean Noe, ELIAS founder in Elgin, IL.

become an Audubon chapter. As a result, in 1967 Moriches Bay Audubon Society was formed. Membership started with five people, but quickly grew to 300 members. The year before, Roy Wilcox had taught an adult class in ornithology in Westhampton which contributed to the rapid membership growth. Mrs. Noe obtained the class list and called the participants encouraging them to join. Mrs. Noe proudly said, "We were an active chapter with a newsletter." Meetings were held once a month starting at the Center Moriches library. Jerry Donnelly, the librarian, was an Audubon member. But soon the membership became too large for that space, so the meetings were moved to the local school. Later, after Mrs. Noe departed for the midwest in 1971, meetings were held at the the Quogue Wildlife Refuge and still are. Once a week they had a field trip. People like Roy Wilcox were guides. Mrs. Noe never was a guide.

The Kahler Pond Center was Mrs. Noe's next project. The Center became a place for school children to explore the world of birds and nature. An old barn on Montauk Highway between East and Center Moriches was converted into a nature center with the permission of the town of Brookhaven. School groups were brought in to feed the ducks and explore the grounds behind the Center. Half of the class would stay inside to look at interesting nature artifacts. The other

group would go outside. The place soon had nests and museum skins of birds inside. The Center had been given special permission to collect dead birds. Mrs. Noe and Carol Tveekrem took classes to learn to make museum skins. Mrs. Noe remembered, "It was easy to take the skin off, but I had trouble taking out the eyes." Later, Carol would become a bird bander in Minnesota. Mrs. Noe would teach others to prepare museum skins, including one of her son's friends who subsequently became head of a nearby nature preserve in the Elgin area. "He always credited me with teaching him that technique." With help from the Long Island Lighting Company and the telephone companies the Center erected poles for Osprey nests. "Men from the Moriches Bay Audubon Society built and put up racks."

Mrs. Noe recalled receiving thank you letters from students after their visits to the Center. "They were wonderful things to read; I sat on my bed and cried." Wendy and I also have many student thank you letters and drawings. Wendy said she takes them out to read "whenever I'm feeling unhappy."

In 1971, Mrs. Noe left Center Moriches to live in South Elgin. "I did not want to leave Center Moriches for the midwest because I knew I would miss the Center Moriches Audubon Society."

However, not surprisingly, Mrs. Noe became active in the local Audubon Society In Elgin. Nearby, in Lord's Park, there was a museum that had many mounted birds which were mislabeled. Mrs Noe's proposal to correctly identify them was turned down. For two years she did the local Audubon newsletter. She remembered longingly about how pro-active she and her friends had been in the Moriches Bay Audubon Society.

Mrs. Noe, now a widow, will be 92 in February. Her mobility is restricted but her mind, spirit and sense of humor are still excellent. She received permission to have a bird house suited for wrens installed on a black walnut tree outside her second floor window. There have been no takers so far, but she is hoping that perhaps a White-breasted Nuthatch or a Chickadee will take up residence. Wendy explained that the male wren often builds three or four nests from which his female may choose one in which she will lay her eggs.

Mrs. Noe chimed in that the female then raises the chicks by herself while the male goes a courting again.

Mrs. Noe told us a few good stories about birding on Dune Road. She and Carol Tveekrem were out east on Dune Rd. one day when they spotted a Snowy Owl on a telephone pole. The bird was stretching out his wings as he perched high above them. Suddenly, he took off outstretched in all his glory.

Another time while on Dune Rd. on a windy day, she and her daughter Cathy caught sight of a gull caught in some wires near the Westhampton Bridge. The bird was struggling to get loose. Her daughter was crying, asking her mother to do something. Mrs. Noe went to the Westhampton police department suggesting that one of the policemen come out to shoot the bird to put him out of his misery. The officer responded, "What kind of a shot do you think we are? Plus it is a windy day."

Wendy and I were inspired by Mrs. Noe's life long interest and work in birding. We were especially pleased to learn of her childhood introduction to birding by the Audubon Society some 80 plus years ago. We each will be looking for a future Mrs. Noe in our respective classes this coming year.

Wendy, along with 28 other volunteers, will teach birding in a three year old



Jackson brought a Phoebe nest to share with the class. Will he be a life long birder?

Chicago based program, *Birds in My Neighborhood*, sponsored by Chicago Audubon and Open Lands. They will be in 17 schools, all located near parks.

I will return to my school near Van Cortlandt Park where I will be on the lookout for potential life long birders. Right now, I'm thinking of four boys in the three classes I taught in this past school year. There was Jackson who brought in a Phoebe's nest found under the porch at his grandparents' house, Christian who spotted two red-tail hawks circling in the sky as he sat in the classroom, and the two best friends who told me that they, "birded every day," one of whom identified two Baltimore Orioles and the other of whom led me to an active robin's nest on a field trip in Central Park. ■

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Celebrating Birding on Wednesday, October 15

On Wednesday, October 15 at 6 pm ELIAS will be joined by Christopher Paparo at the annual event, a dinner Celebrating Birding. All our members and friends are invited. Come and join in. There will be raffles, a sit-down dinner, a cash bar and old and new friends. It will take place at The East Wind in Wading River. The cost is \$50 per person. Watch for your invitation. You can check our website too. We will have reservation forms available there.

Our speaker, Chris Paparo, has been exploring the wilds of Long Island for over 30 years. He is a licensed general class falconer, currently flying a female Red-tailed Hawk named Emmy. As a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer, he enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls Long Island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing and the outdoors led him to obtain a BS in Marine Science from LIU/Southampton.

Currently he manages the new Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University.

In addition to freelance writing for several fishing and wildlife related publications, he currently writes the monthly Naturalist's Logbook column for the NY/NJ edition of *On The Water Magazine*. Although his work tends to focus on marine life, everything in the natural world is fair game.

To follow Paparo's adventures, follow him on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram at Fish Guy Photos or by visiting his website at www.fishguyphotos.com.

Call Evelyn (727-0417), Sally (281-6008) or Ridgie (288-3628) if you have any questions or need reservation. We are looking forward to a great evening.

Oystercatchers, Yellowlegs and Dowitchers, Oh my!

Sally Newbert

Two summer walks were scheduled in August this year. The first one, on August 2nd, was probably the rainiest day of the summer. But a few people came, gathered in the gazebo at Tiana beach, and ended up seeing over 25 species of shorebirds. The highlight, finding some furtive Clapper Rails on the edge of the spartina grass, viewable with a scope. Near the end of our stay, several Wimbrels flew in. It was agreed that the walk would be postponed, and willing folks gathered again on Sunday once again the furtive Clapper Rails were hugging the edge of the marsh. The much improved weather gave us time to discuss the peeps, and how to tell them apart. A task easier said than done.

On August 16th, at the dreadfully early hour of seven am the group met at Cupsoque County Park and started over to flats on Moriches Bay. This time the weather was just fine. Over 35 species were counted on this trip. Among highlights was a Black Tern that we were able to observe flying low over the flats, it landed for a while and we were able to get scoped views. Two Little Blue Herons were also spotted. As were making our return trip several Red Knots and Marbled Gotwits flew in.



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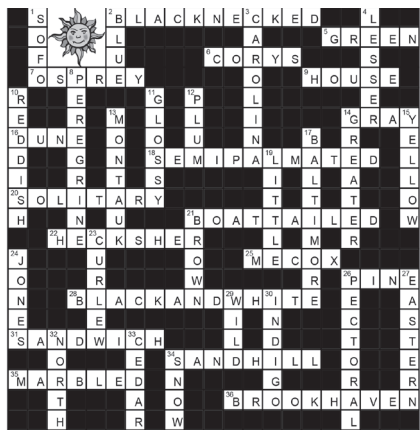
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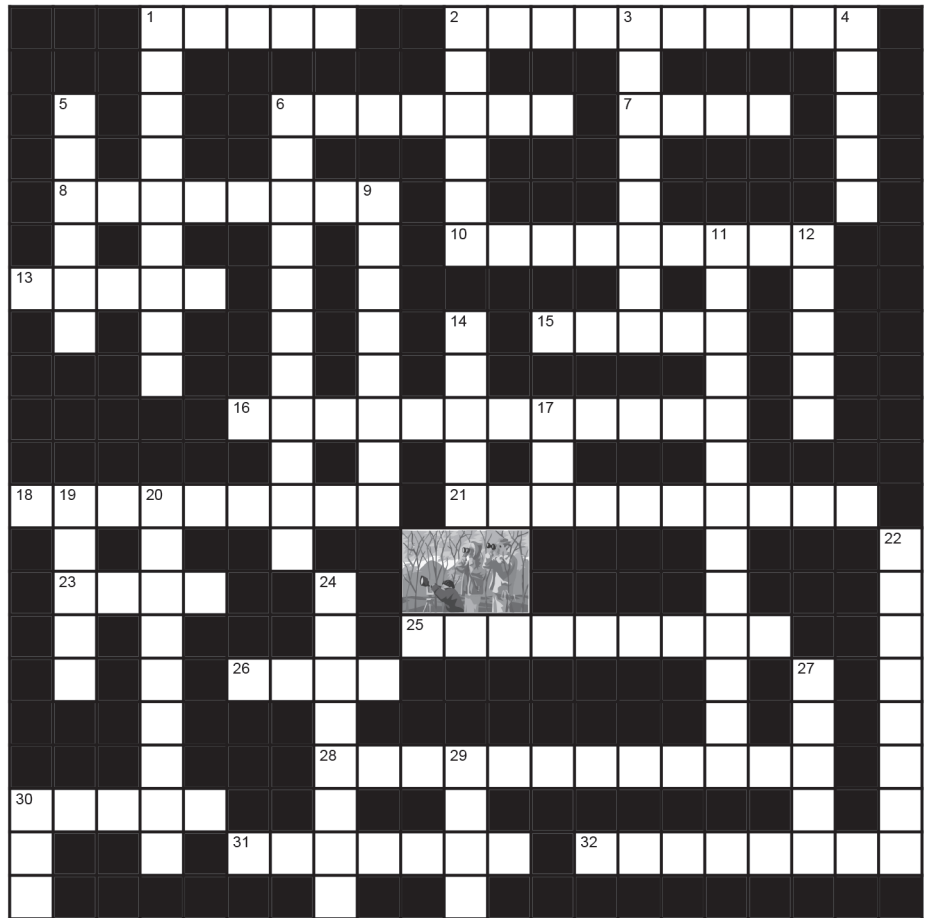
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Answers to last issue's puzzle Summer Birding by Tom Moran



Fall Birding Tom Moran



Across

- 1 Maybe you'll meet him if you hawk watch at Cape May
- 2 Downy-_____
- 6 Family of birds that is often a pain in the neck
- 7 Royal_____, maybe seen at Cupsogue
- 8 White-breasted_____, put suet in a feeder and maybe get this in your backyard
- 10 Ruddy_____
- 13 _____ Jar, some were heard out on Lazy Point Rd this summer
- 15 _____ Beach, the Coast Guard Station is a good place to get shorebirds
- 16 _____ Preserve in Southold, a family of Least Bitterns was visible this summer
- 18 Common, Red-breasted, Hooded _____
- 21 Empidonax ones are hard to tell apart
- 23 Swimming birds that fly well and are larger than terns
- 25 Dark, yellow-billed duck, common in the winter (2 words)
- 26 Not the Gray Jay found further north
- 28 North _____, birding location out east (2 words)
- 30 Dark-eyed _____
- 31 Lincoln _____, an uncommon, hard to see one
- 32 George Bird _____, key founder of the Audubon Society

Down

- 1 Short or Long-billed _____
- 2 Large sandpiper that will say its name often and is commonly seen along the south shore
- 3 Roger Tory _____, revolutionized field guides
- 4 Nevermore bird
- 5 Sometimes has a black belly, sometimes not, has a drooping bill
- 6 Louisiana or Northern _____
- 9 _____ State Park, juts out into the Great South Bay
- 11 American _____, vibrant red bill
- 12 Great, Snowy or Cattle _____
- 14 aka Wading River Marsh Preserve
- 17 Cape _____, New Jersey
- 19 Golden _____, Franklin Mtn, NY is a good place to try for one in migration
- 20 American _____, gold and black with deeply undulating flight
- 22 Large wading bird with a long decurved bill
- 24 Kenn _____, Big Year winner in 1973 with a list of 671, also a field guide author
- 27 Pied-billed, Eared, Horned or Red-necked _____
- 29 Red _____, one of the longest migrators, relies on horseshoe crab eggs
- 30 Blue or Gray _____

Two Books, Distinctive, Yet Complementary to Each Other

FEATHERS

The Evolution of a Natural Miracle

Thor Hanson

Reviewed by Eileen Schwinn

Who hasn't seen and admired a feather? Who hasn't admired the details of how each piece "hooks" together with the tiny piece next to it? Who hasn't, as a child, pretended to use a feather as a quill pen, or added a found feather to a hat as decoration? Thor Hanson has written a comprehensive study of *Feathers* – covering evolution (the fossil remains of dinosaur-like creatures, who flew like birds), fluff (the insulating properties of that part of birds which man has incorporated into helping to keep us warm, which also, when needed, keep a bird cool), flight (what we land-bound mortals have learned to incorporate into our airplane development), fancy (not only an accessory birds may use to attract a mate, but the reason some species faced near extinction because of human use of the same accessory!) and function (different birds, different feather development – or absence). Hanson collects data from throughout the world, gathering information from paleontologists, ornithologists, historians, and pillow makers, and presents a very readable book. We meet forensic specialists who help determine if a bird has caused an aircraft accident and Las Vegas costume makers, who rely heavily on feathers to provide that little bit of *oo la la* in a show-girls costume. Hanson concludes with the quote, "Let the fascination begin" – it sums up his delightful little book.



THE THING WITH FEATHERS

The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal About Being Human

Noah Strycker

Reviewed by Eileen Schwinn

Birds are smart – there's no question – but we probably will never really know just how smart. How does a racing pigeon find his way home? How do vultures world-wide find their food? What are penguins afraid of, and why? What makes an albatross mate for life – a life that may last 60 years or more? Strycker explores these topics – and others – without making birds into beings with our human characteristics. He does, however, show parallel skills we share with our feathered neighbors. He devotes chapters to pecking order and avian co-operation, cache memory (and human memory tricks) and bird art and craftiness. He begins his book by asking, "Imagine what might happen if birds studied us. Which human traits would catch their interest? How would they draw conclusions?" But we learn that birds do have better things to do than to study humans, and we play only a minor role in any bird's world. Strycker does provide some interesting human observations as well: Humans who record their pet cockatoo, rocking to the Backstreet Boys tune, "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)", and humans who compete in World Memory Championships by memorizing 1144 shuffled playing cards (twenty-two decks!!) Minor league compared to Clark's Nutcrackers (a western US member of the Jay/Crow family), who can plant and reseed as many as 5000 different minicaches of pine seeds a season. Humor and readability make this book a wonderful gift idea for any bird enthusiast you may know!



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_____	20 lb Niger Seed	\$28.00	_____
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The *OSPREY*

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