



THE OSPREY

January/February 2015 — Vol. XL No. 1

Looking to ID a bird? *Ask how does it behave?*

By Bob Duchesne
Special to the Bangor Daily News

Often I lose control of my brain. For instance, a couple of weeks ago I saw a flock of small birds fly across the interstate. Without my permission, my brain wandered off on its own. It wondered, how tight is the flock? Is the flight bouncy?

The birds were silhouetted against a gray sky. No colors or field marks were visible, but my brain didn't care.

It was trying to figure out whether they were waxwings, finches, starlings, or something else, based purely on behavior. If a single bird crosses the highway, there are hundreds of possibilities. If a small flock of birds crosses the highway, there are fewer than a dozen candidates, because not many species fly in flocks.

On Monday, it happened to me again. A small hawk flashed across the road. My brain escaped into a sea of immediate questions. How did it fly? Was it the flap-flap-glide flight of a sharp-shinned hawk or the more direct flight of a merlin? How pointed were the wings? How long was the tail? Since most merlins migrate south, what were the odds of one lingering?

Unbidden, my wandering mind answered itself. The flight was fast and direct, the wings were pointed, the tail short, and the odds of a winter merlin were slim but not

zero. I see one or two merlins every cold season, including this one.

I can't stop my brain from doing this. There comes a time in every birder's life when their identification skills move beyond a mere assessment of shape and color, and they begin to evaluate behavior.

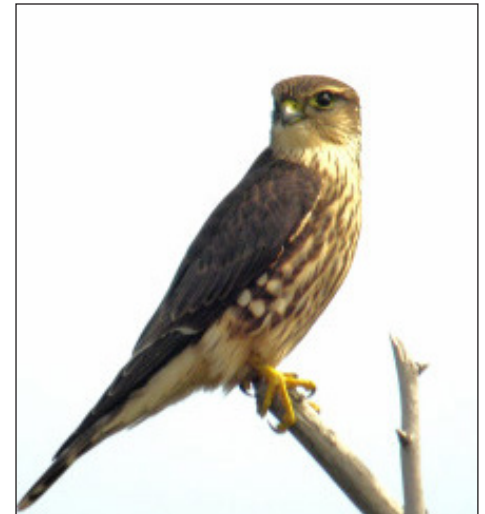
Eventually, it becomes an unstoppable, ingrained habit.

Every species has a collection of adaptations that allows it to occupy a biological niche. These adaptations affect how each bird flies, walks, feeds and perches. They provide a wealth of identification clues. For instance, woodpeckers, brown creepers, black-and-white warblers and nuthatches are all able to walk up a tree trunk, but only nuthatches can walk down.

Many adaptations are mutually exclusive. Wings cannot be both big and fast. Large wings allow a bird to soar high and glide far. An albatross can spend days in the air, riding the wind. But it can never beat those big wings fast enough to be speedy. The *buteo* family of hawks has large wings and short tails.

Examples include broad-winged, red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks. They soar slowly, or perch and pounce. They may generate speed in a dive, but they'll seldom outpace prey in a level flight.

Falcons have sleek, pointed wings. They are built like jet fighters, and they fly that



A Merlin perches on a branch.

BOB DUCHESNE

way. Sharp-shinned hawks are members of the *accipiter* family and have short, rounded wings and long tails. Their short wings allow them to fly fast, though not as fast as the pointy-winged merlins. The sharp-shinned hawk's longer tail allows it to steer more quickly, out maneuvering its quarry. Because they don't have the large wings of a red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawks are less efficient gliders, and they need to flap more frequently in order to maintain momentum. Thus, their cruising style is often described as flap-flap-glide.

Finches and waxwings are capable of flying long distances, but usually in short bursts, landing often. As a result, they don't need the longer wings required to migrate across seas. Their shorter wings are more convenient for flitting around treetops, while munching on seeds and berries. It is also more efficient to fly in short bursts of flapping, which gives them a bouncy, undulating flight. Finches and waxwings often fly in flocks. Woodpeckers have short, stiff wings, and they have a similar undulating flight, but they seldom fly together except with immediate family.

Continued on page 8

The President's Corner

Close Encounters of the Birding Kind

Byron Young

We have all had a close encounter of the birding kind so don't be frightened. These enjoyable encounters serve to brighten the day if not the year or for that matter a lifetime. Anyone who spends time watching birds can recall at least one experience with our feathered friends that stands out in their minds. You can be washing the dishes at the kitchen sink, well not me, and have a bird disrupt your dish washing chore. What a pleasure when a bird presents itself and says *look at me, look at me*. I do think birds will do that sometimes.

One does not have to be an avid birder to have these encounters but it does help to spend time afield, whether it is in your backyard or just out and about. Can you prepare for such encounters? In reality no, I can't tell you how many times my camera or binoculars have been safely stowed away in the back seat of the car and a bird says look at me. Well, you can enjoy the encounter while fumbling around for your gear.

These close encounters are random events that occur when all of the planets are aligned in your favor, which I have never figured out but when I do I will be sure to let you know. I have favorite spots where I have been presented with close encounters in the past, like Dune Road, Smith Point, Baiting Hollow Boy Scout Camp, Montauk Point and many others. I have also been rewarded with close encounters in my backyard with Hummingbirds, Coopers Hawks, Cardinals, Blue Jays and a host of other birds.

What do you need to do to be prepared? Here is the list: binoculars at the ready, camera at the ready, and in a position to take advantage of a cooperative bird. The key here is a cooperative bird. Some birds just are not cooperative but always hiding behind a branch or in a leafy shrub or flitting about up high in a tree. However, one can never plan on cooperative birds, I think it is something about us humans invading their personal space. The technical term is escape distance.

The key component to these encounters is patience. Our natural resources operate on their own schedule that does not necessarily correspond with our natural schedules. When dealing with natural resources one can go months without a close encounter, and then you will have three or four in close succession. During late 2011, I had gone nearly three months without having a remarkable bird interaction or photo opportunity, whether bird or animal. I had taken a few scenic shots but they don't count for as much as a good bird or animal shot. My first break in this drought came when a Peregrine Falcon decided to grace me with its presence by landing in a mud puddle on Dune Road. I had pulled over to let another car pass me while searching Dune Road for bird life. As I began to pull back onto the road I spotted a bird flying straight at me down the road from the east. Much to my surprise and delight the bird landed no more than 100 feet from me. With my camera ready on the front seat I got a couple of long

range photos and then proceeded to roll closer to the bird. When I stopped, the bird was just across Dune Road from me cleaning itself in the puddle paying very little attention to me. I am not sure how long I spent with this bird, only a minute or two, which turned into one of those memorable encounters.

Such encounters are a gift to be appreciated. They can be as simple as a backyard encounter with a Chickadee or hummingbird, or as exotic as an encounter with an owl, raptor or rarity especially when the bird lets you watch for an extended period of time whether it is a few seconds or a few minutes.

So go forth this winter in search of your own close encounter. You never know what you will find. Search your favorite haunts or explore new areas. You never know when a cooperative bird will say look at me!

Good Birding!

Membership Corner

John McNeil

I would like to welcome all the new members who joined our ranks over the past year as well as renewing members. Thank You. All memberships are now renewable in January, there are no mid-year renewals anymore.

Eileen Schwinn our past president will be taking over as Field Trip Chairman, I look forward to many exciting field trip outings in the future and I wish her well and great success.

Feeder Survey dates for this year are Jan. 4th to 10th., Feb. 1st to 7th., Mar. 1st. to 7th., and Apr. 5th. to 11th. You can send them to me via the web or just jot down your sighting and mail them to me. There is a form for February and March on page 11. I would like to thank all participants who have submitted their results to me. You all are doing a get job and I Thank You.

The Backyard Bird Count is coming up in February. I hope you will take part. See the information on page 7.

May we all have a snow free winter, moderate temperatures and good birding to all. Have a happy and safe holidays to all

John

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, February 2, 2015 at 7:15 pm

Trip to the Dominican Republic

Bob Adamo

RuthAnn and I, joined by our whole family, celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in the sunny Dominican Republic this past year, I was quite surprised with the diverse *Ava fauna* found at our all-inclusive resort. Besides getting 7 “lifers,” I was able to get nice photos of many of the DR’s birds, as well as of, some of the natural wonders found on this part of the Caribbean Island, that once was called Hispaniola!



ELIAS has joined Constant Contact, an email service, in order to get notices, reminders, and although we hate to do it, changes or cancellations of programs or walks. Sometimes the weather just does not cooperate with our plans. If you have not received any notices and would like to be on the list please email: eliasosprey@optonline.net.

Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:15

State of the East End Ground Water

Kevin McAllister

Kevin McAllister is the founder of the water advocacy group **Defend H2O**. He will address the state of the East End’s ground and surface waters and discuss environmental management strategies to restore and protect area waters.

Kevin is a Marine scientist with substantive academic training in several disciplines in both the biological and physical sciences. His unique qualifications have been developed over a span of more than 25 years working with government and consultancy for the not-for-profit sector. His expertise in coastal zone management is a valued asset as our communities face the challenges of water quality and a rising sea level.



With years of experience and commitment to the environment, Kevin McAllister, is the right man at the right time for the critical task of protecting our waters.

Mike Bottini
Wildlife Biologist

Nature Walk & Field Trips

Saturday, February 7, 2015, meet at 9:00 am

Montauk Point

We will meet at the Concession Stand at The Point to look for wintering ducks and alcids, as well as anything else that might be wintering in the general Montauk area. We will travel to Fort Pond, Camp Hero, and various other spots along The Montauk Trail!! Dress appropriately for cold, wind and nasty weather!! Contact Eileen Schwinn at beached@optonline.net for more information, and to “register”. Call (516) 662-7751 the day of the trip.

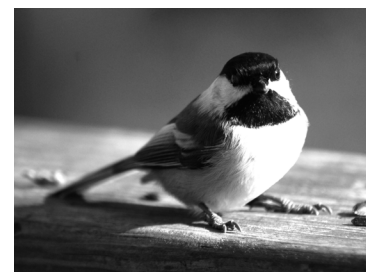


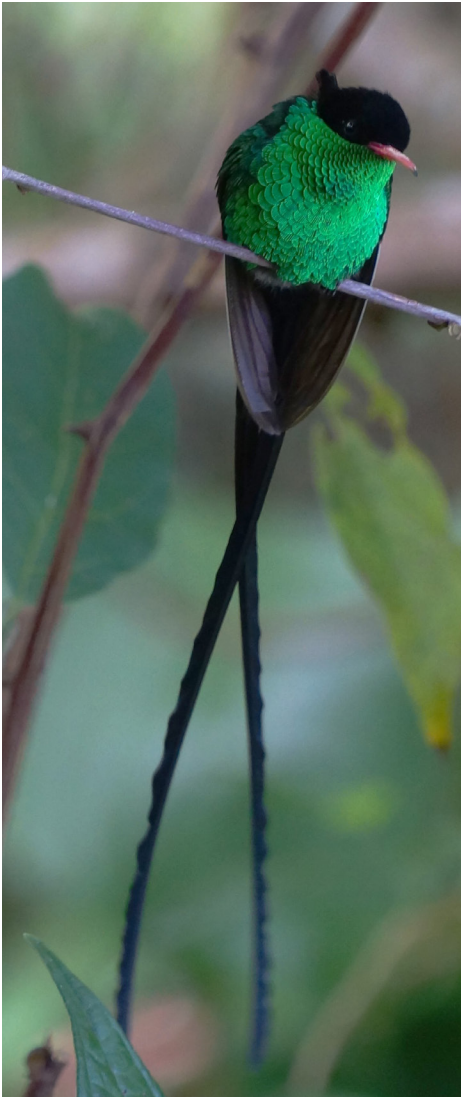
Saturday, March 7, 2015, meet at 8:30 am

Morton National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at the Parking Lot at Morton NWR, off Route 38 (Noyack Road), North Sea.

Who’s heart doesn’t melt when a tiny little bird lands on your fingertips to grab a bit of bird seed?? Even the most hard-core birder will smile and giggle! Join Eileen Schwinn and other birders of all levels at our local national treasure, where generations of birds have become tame enough to eat out of your hand! A hike of between a mile and a mile and a half will give ample opportunities to see are over-wintering birds, including woodpeckers, sparrows and occasionally Pine Siskins and Nuthatches. Dress warmly, and bring kids and adults who have never birded here before! Contact Eileen at beached@optonline.net to register, and call (516) 662-7751 the day of the trip if there are questions. Birdseed will be provided!





We should meet this spectacular Streamer-tail Hummingbird, endemic to Jamaica, on our first morning of the trip. Below, another beautifully colored endemic with red under its chin, and a red wing patch bird, the Jamaican Tody, is a frequent visitor to the local gardens.



“Streamer-tail Hummingbird, Jamaican Tody, Jamaican Spindalis”.....”

Linda Sullivan

.....*Blue Mountain coffee, Goblin Hill, and Woodside Road* are all words that will bring a smile to your face and a twinkle to your eye, if you come join me on our first ever ELIAS birding expedition to Jamaica.

Enjoy a 5 day, 4 night adventure that is bound to please all of your senses! With 28 endemic species easily spotted and anxious to be Facebook posted, Jamaica is a birders delight.

The plan is to take the 6:45 am Jet Blue flight from JFK on May 23, 2015. The flight arrives in Kingston, Jamaica at 10:45 am and we intend to “hit the ground running.”

After meeting our tour coordinator Lynda Lee, we will collect our luggage and head off toward the Blue Mountains. We will make a brief stop at a grocery store to pick up any last minute items and have an opportunity to grab a quick snack.

Next stop is Hope Botanical Gardens for our first taste of Jamaican birding and our first meeting with Lyndon Johnson, our bird guide for the next 4 days.

A posh, late lunch awaits our arrival at lovely Strawberry Hill and with it an opportunity to enjoy the gorgeous mountain landscape, lush with wildlife. This might well be our first encounter with the beautiful Streamer-tail Hummingbird.

Our final destination for Day 1 will be Woodside Guest house, which will serve as our lodging for the next 2 nights. At Woodside we will be sharing family style meals and enjoying bird listing nightly on the open air porch overlooking the Blue Mountains.

Woodside Road is an amazing place to bird! Local residents include the Jamaican Tody, Arrowhead Warbler, White-chinned Thrush, Streamer-tail Hummingbird and the Orangequit, just to name a few. Gardeners will delight in the flowers and trees surrounding the house. The constant chatter of bird activity in these gardens, combined with the many colorful and light winged butterflies, just complete the serendipity of this picture perfect location.

On Day 2 we will spend the entire day in the Blue Mountains with Lyndon. There will be a lot to talk about back at Woodside this evening!



Goblin Hill offers lovely villa type accommodations, with family style dining again, but this time, outdoors and overlooking the water below. There is a delightful swimming pool, a secluded bar and lots of birding opportunities on the spacious property.



Day 3 will be a travel day, heading toward Port Antonio and Goblin Hill, our roost for the next 2 nights. En route, we will enjoy a leisurely river rafting trip with Crazy Cats. These rafts are 12 foot long bamboo rafts that seat 2 people very comfortably. They are poled down the river by a riverman, in the same manner bananas are transported up and down the river. Along the relaxing and scenic trip, we are sure to encounter birds and other wildlife. This will be both a relaxing and exciting day.

Goblin Hill offers lovely villa type accommodations, with family style dining again, but this time, outdoors and overlooking the water below. There is a delightful swimming pool, a secluded bar and lots of birding opportunities on the spacious property.

On Day 4 we will bird Ecclesdown with Lyndon, a well known birding spot with endless possibilities. We will picnic at Winnifred Beach for lunch and then bird the San San area in the afternoon. We can

also organize our time so that we can visit Port Antonio before San San, if anyone wishes to shop. Then it is back to Goblin Hill for dinner and possibly an evening owl prow!

On Day 5 we will get up early, leaving Goblin Hill by 5-5:30 am, so there will be time to bird Happy Grove and then Yallah's before reaching the airport for our 10:40 am flight home.

There you have it! If you are still looking for that perfect gift for yourself and/or that special someone.....problem solved!

Linda Sullivan is a long-time ELIAS member and world traveller. She has put this trip together, after doing it herself last year feeling it is a wonderful 5-day opportunity for birders to enjoy a nothing but birding trip with fellow birders!

Details at a glance:

Trip dates
Friday, May 23 to
Tuesday May 27, 2015

Cost: \$1465 per person
Single supplement: \$380
Plus Jet Blue flight \$449 round trip

Departing flight #559
leaving at 6:45 am from JFK

Return flight #560,
departing Kingston at 10:40 am

Price includes 4 nights lodgings, meals, internal transportation and bird guide. Price does not include liquor or soft drinks. We need a minimum of 6 participants and a maximum of 12.

For further information,
please contact Linda Sullivan at
631-929-8281 or at
lbh2954@aol.com.



On Day 3 we will take a leisurely river rafting trip with Crazy Cats. These bamboo rafts are 12 foot long that seat 2 people very comfortably. They are poled down the river by a riverman, in the same manner bananas are transported up and down the river. Along the relaxing and scenic trip, we are sure to encounter birds and other wildlife.

Remembering an Exceptional Mentor

Larry Penny

I would not be here today if it weren't for my mentor Paul Stoutenburgh. In the middle 1950s when I was a teen growing up next to the potato fields in the Oregon part of Mattituck, my mother turned my attention to a small notice in the Mattituck Watchman-Long Island Traveler. It said that a man named Paul would be showing slides of birds at a local church. After a very snowy winter of feeding birds—rather than shooting them with my Daisy BB gun—with old pieces of bread in my backyard and watching them feed with the naked eye from my second story window I was eager to learn more about them and so went to the slide show.

It was the beginning of a long and prosperous tutelage under Paul Stoutenburgh's watchful eye. At the time Paul was married to Barbara Silleck who contributed equally to my development as a budding naturalist. Paul took me under his wing and I spent many a great day with him watching birds, photographing them and learning about the local ecosystems: salt marshes, coastal ponds, woodlands, old fields and such. Long Island Sound, Mattituck Inlet, the Peconic Bays and their cricks and inlets, from Orient Point to west of Riverhead and the South Fork that was his primary bailiwick.

How Paul got started photographing nature is a mystery to me. I know that he took up photography at a young age and took his Leica to World War II with him on a naval vessel in the Pacific. Near New Guinea his ship was torpedoed and went down, Paul managed to save himself and, luckily, his camera.

When he returned to the States his camera was by his side and stayed by his side for until he got another, then another, as film cameras and their lenses became more and more sophisticated. One of my first treks with Paul was to Quogue where he had found a Killdeer nest in a field in mid-March. From that moment on, I played a valuable role in his photographic pursuits. He would build a makeshift blind close to a nest, come back a few days later with me, and set up to shoot the nester.

There were no telephoto lenses readily available in those days so the blind had to be but a few feet from the nest.

The killdeer spooked, we both entered the blind and sat for a short spell, confident that the Mrs. Killdeer knew that someone was near her nest. The next step was a brilliantly staged by Paul. I would leave the blind in an obvious fashion and walk away about 200 yards with the hope that she was watching me leave. I sat down and watched from afar. In about 15 minutes she came back and started brooding her eggs but I couldn't tell from my faraway vantage point. In an hour or so, Paul stood up outside the blind. "Did you get some good shots", I asked, "Yes, indeed" he replied.

From then on I played a very valuable role. Things got tricky when he found a Yellow-crowned Night Heron breeding in a pine tree in Aquebogue. He constructed a tree blind and we pulled the same dog-and-pony trick, we both went up the tree, I got down and hid a distance away, Paul was able to get some magnificent close-ups of the heron.

Paul was also a Christmas bird counter. I went on my first one, the Central Suffolk Count, in December of 1952. There were only a handful of us, but they were all tried and true birders. They were the big four of East End birders at the time. None of them were academic scientists but they were prodigious observers, data recorders and writers. Gil Raynor was a meteorologist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, he used an old fashioned telescope but was as adept at following the flight of birds in the air with he as spotting them roosting or on the ground. He published scientific papers about bird migration in *The Auk* and other ornithological journals. Dennis Puleston, author and public relations person at the Brookhaven Lab who had sailed across the Pacific Ocean in a smallish boat and later wrote a very fine *Natural History of Long Island*. The Long Island duck farmer, Roy Wilcox, he worked the South Bays part of the count, he was also a writer, and compiled the natural history of Southampton Town among other

works. He was also a bird-bander and the Long Island authority on the Piping Plover and its nesting habits. Art Cooley graduated from Cornell University and taught biology and other subjects at Bellport High School. He led many, many highschoolers into natural history and the environment in the way that Paul did with me. At that time, along with Paul, and following in the footsteps of the great Roy Latham, an Orient potato farmer, who was self taught in all phases of natural history, they made up the "Big Five" of Suffolk County's active natural historians.

Paul and I would also go duck hunting together. Set out decoys, sit in a blind on Nassau point and watch the winter waterfowl skim the waters of Peconic Bay. Many naturalists, conservationists and environmentalists started out as hunters. Just think for a moment of John James Audubon and Theodore Roosevelt, they both travelled the Americas, often on foot, and shot their specimens in order to collect them for museums and illustrations.

Early on, long before there was email and digital cameras, Paul said that print was fated to be replaced by pictures, namely, photographs, and in a way he was right. Ironically, perhaps, Paul was as good in print as behind the camera. But he had the help of his able assistant and wife and co-writer, Barbara, who knew how to spell and type with both hands. He (and Barbara) began writing a weekly column "Focus on Nature" in the *Riverhead News-Review* in 1951. It became a mainstay in the *Suffolk Times* published by Troy Gustavson. He wrote more than 2,500 nature columns replete with photographs, covering flora and fauna, fish and fowl, herbs and trees, land and water. His last was printed in 2011. For a short time his column was carried in the *Southampton Press*, as well.

He was the first nature columnist on Long Island. Back from the Army and Japan in 1961, Paul let me write one of his columns and I guess I was smitten. Nowadays three East End newspapers, the *East Hampton Star*, *Southampton Press* and *East Hampton Press* run a weekly

continued


nature column. In 2013 Dave Taft began a biweekly nature column in the *New York Times* Metropolitan section.

But, above all, he was an ardent environmentalist, working to preserve wetlands at a time when Suffolk County and the U.S. Corps of Engineers were dredging waterways helter-skelter and putting the dredged materials on wetland vegetation. He started the North Fork Environmental Council, which preceded the Group For The South Fork which ultimately morphed into Group For The East End. Long before the Long Island Nature Conservancy had paid staff, Paul was one of the TNC's most strenuous volunteers saving land here and there relying on the good will of people who donated it.

He was also a director for the Peconic Land Trust, helping to preserve farmland. He, as a member of the Big Five, helped bring Suffolk County into the environmental limelight by starting and working with organizations such as Defenders of Wildlife in order to get DDT—the mosquito control agent of choice and the farmer's right-hand in battling the Colorado potato beetle—banned in Suffolk County. While a shop teacher at Greenport High School, he started a summer nature workshop program for Southold youth involving seining creeks and coves and other nature studies.

After the DDT era, Paul and other began putting up artificial nesting poles for the Osprey population which had been reduced to less than 20 breeding pairs on Long Island. He, Gil Raynor, Dennis Puleston and I overnights on Gardiners Island in the 1970s to study the breeding bird fauna at a time. While I was at Southampton College we visited Robins Island more than once and Paul led the fight to protect it. Most of it is now managed by the Nature Conservancy. He studied mammals and marine organisms with me on Mashomack to formulate the Mashomack Preserve Master Plan.

Paul was the compiler of the Orient Christmas Bird Count for about 30 years. For a long time, Paul served as a Southold Town Trustee where he made deep



**The Great Backyard
Bird Count**

Art by Charley Harper

Be a Citizen Scientist and have the kids join you. Participate in the The Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16, 2015

This count has something for everyone. Take your favorite kid, take 15 minutes, go to a park near you. See what birds you can find and report them to eBird. If it's too cold, count the birds in your backyard. They don't have to be hard to ID, or exotic. Just look around. If you stay home – warm up with a cup of tea or hot chocolate while you count. It is citizen science at its easiest. Here are official instructions:

1. Register your count at eBird (you can use your existing login name and password). If you have never participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count or any other Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you'll need to create a new account. If you already created an account for last year's GBBC, or if you're already registered with eBird or another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information.
2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.
3. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Observations" on the home page. Or download the free GBBC BirdLog app to enter data on a mobile device. If you already participate in the eBird citizen-science project, please use eBird to submit your sightings during the GBBC. Your checklists will count toward the GBBC.

More information is available on the web. <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>

environmental inroads. He also was a town councilman for a term or two. Paul traveled widely with his wife and family, e.g., to the Gaspé Peninsula to study the breeding of Gannets and other marine birds. In June of 2013, the Southold Town Board named the Hashamomuck Pond Nature Preserve in his honor.

On July 15 of this year after a long bout with Parkinson's Disease, Paul passed away. His body in keeping with a long-held commitment was given to Stony Brook University.

He is survived by his wife of long-standing, Barbara, who carries on his work and his love of nature and the environment.

From the Field



SALLY NEWBERT

Christmas Bird Count, Southampton, December 13



BOB GUNNING

Hallockville & Hallock State Park November 15, 2014



SALLY NEWBERT

Left & above at the William Floyd Estate, November 16, 2014



SUZI STEWART

Lakes around Patchogue, January 10, 2015

From Carl Starace

I am sure many of you know Carl Starace. He led many ELIAS walks and wrote a column for the Osprey that described a bird and usually a personal field experience. You may know he left the area, and after several stops, has settled in Colorado, where he continues his birding adventures. Here is what he wrote:



I heard from Al Scherzer that the dinner at East Wind went splendidly. Sally and I are finally settled down in the fine little hamlet of just 5,000 folks, called Niwot, (that was the name of an Arapahoe Chief who lived here years past). We are just 15 minutes from Boulder, which is something like Colorado's Austin. A great big college town. Lately we drove up to a place called Lily Lake, about 6 miles south of Estes Park and the main entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. We found a flock of 8 Red Crossbills which gave us 234 species in our first eleven months in the state. In the photo we are on Rabbit Mountain, my favorite local birding spot, with Sally and I, is Sally's sister Nancy, who lives in Boulder, just 15 minutes down the pike. See just a little resemblance there?

Give my best to the rest of the Auduboners!!! Take care, Carl

Continued from page 1

Finches tend to have tight flocks. Waxwing flocks tend to be a little looser. Starlings fly in flocks, but often have stragglers.

It took a long time for my brain to learn these behaviors, and it took even longer to reach the point where it thinks unthinkingly.

If you're looking around for a New Year's resolution, I would suggest paying attention to how birds behave in 2015. Start simply. Watch how they feed. On the ground? Low bushes? Tree tops? Do they approach the bird feeder boldly or cautiously? All of these are clues.

Examine common birds. Robins and blue jays are similar in size and often fly at treetop height. They frequently alight in the upper branches. Can you see a difference in how they fly? On average, which one is faster?

Hint: It's not the blue one.

This article was used with the author's permission. Bob Duchesne serves as a Maine Audubon trustee and vice president of its Penobscot Valley Chapter. Bob developed the Maine Birding Trail, with information at mainebirdingtrail.com.

BARTH'S DRUG STORE

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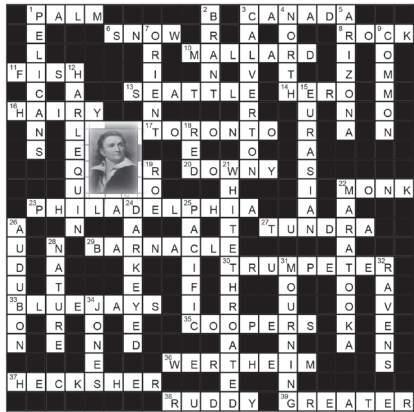
140 East Moriches Blvd.

Eastport, NY 11941

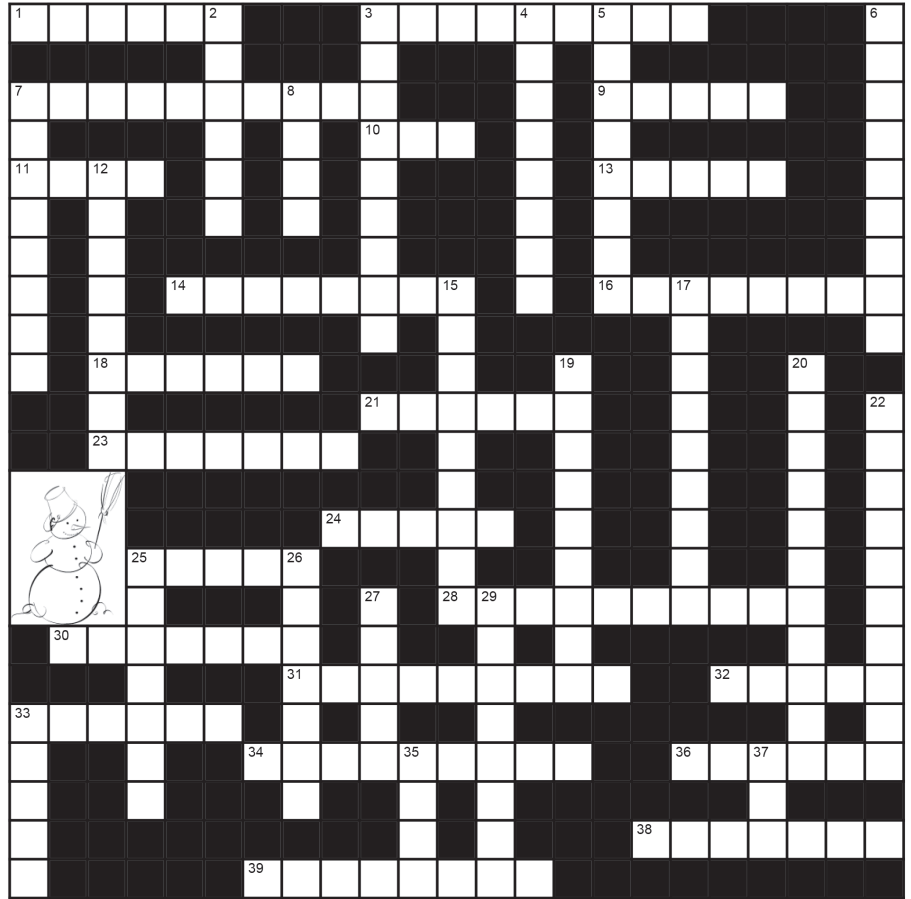
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**Be Sure to Like
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on Facebook!**

Answers to last issue's puzzle Sports Teams by Tom Moran



Winter Visitors Tom Moran



Across

- 1 _____ Warbler, a rare sighting in December 2010 at Sunken Meadow SP
- 3 Barrow's or Common _____
- 7 Belted _____
- 9 American _____, a sign of spring, he can't get here fast enough
- 10 ___ Sparrow, known for the rufous coloring
- 11 _____ - tailed Duck, aka Old Squaw
- 13 _____ Egret/Owl
- 14 _____ Gull, a large billed gull, a few are seen on LI, usually in the late fall to winter
- 14 _____ Shoveller, paddles in circles with its pals to dredge up food.
- 18 _____ Duck, a more flamboyant coiffe than a Ring-necked or Scaup
- 18 _____
- 21 Hermit _____, easily seen during migration.
- 23 _____ Gull, the one with an orange spot on the bill
- 24 The other common black necked goose
- 25 _____ - bellied Plover, but not in winter
- 28 Constantly running towards and then away from the surf
- 30 The less common Goldeneye
- 31 Sometimes hard to distinguish from a Tundra
- 32 _____ - faced Ibis, rare sighting at Cap Tree last May
- 33 Feed one while sitting on a bench in NYC
- 34 _____ Falcon
- 36 _____ Merganser, the flashy one
- 38 Very common duck with yellow bill
- 39 _____ Wren, bold eye stripe and buff breast

Down

- 2 Long _____ Duck, ow-owdle-ow
- 3 Maybe this rare arctic bird of prey will make another appearance at Gilgo this winter
- 4 _____ Starling, a common black bird
- 5 _____ Wigeon, not the American
- 6 Double-crested or Great _____
- 7 Noisy breeding plover of farm country
- 8 Red-tailed _____ the star of ELIAS's annual dinner this October
- 12 Red or White-breasted
- 15 Introduced to the US in Central Park 1890-91
- 17 An Auk, maybe you will see one off Montauk Point this year
- 19 Besides our local one, Boreal and Carolina, but not around here
- 20 Northern _____, the Rich Little of birds
- 22 They bob on the bays in winter, male has a large white patch on head
- 25 aka oddly dressed people with binoculars
- 26 American _____, if you are lucky you will see one hovering at the Calverton Grasslands
- 27 _____ Finch, Sparrow or Wren
- 29 First half of 33 down, slender brown sparrow sized bird, named after song it sings often in flight
- 33 Second half of 29 down
- 35 Franklin's, Sabine's, Bonaparte's, Thayer's, for example
- 37 Snowy _____ hope to see one along Dune Rd this winter

Last Chance – Some Teen Scholarships Are Still Available for Summer Camp

ELIAS is offering scholarships for three students in grades 7 through 12 to attend New York State Department of Conservation camps for one week. Campers will choose between camps in the Adirondacks, Catskills, or western New York State. Campers enjoy fishing, hiking, canoeing, volleyball, and hunter safety training. Activities such as sampling streams for aquatic life and hiking in the dark to listen to the sounds in the woods are designed to bring conservation concepts to life. More information about the camps is available at www.dec.ny.gov. Search for teen camps.

The candidate should be interested in the environment, and anxious to learn more. (Parents need not be ELIAS members, but the camper must live in Eastern Long Island.)

Here is what the candidates need to do:

- Write an essay stating why they are worthy candidate. Include environmental experiences and interests. Describe what benefit they might derive from the experience.
- The candidate should include his or her name, address, city, state, zip, phone, date of birth, name of school and grade. The student should be sure to include if and when he or she has attended an outdoor education/ecology camp. Previous scholarship winners may reapply.

- Parents should attach a letter stating that they are aware of the transportation stipulation (see below).

If accepted:

- Campers are responsible for their own transportation to and from the camp and for their own physical examination, if the camp requires it.

For more information, call Suzi at (516) 443-4906 or Evelyn at 631-727-0417.

Please send essay and information to: Education Committee, ELIAS, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Date of Birth _____

Name of school _____

Grade _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

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Feeder Survey for February & March

John McNeil

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FEEDER SURVEY

- Define an area containing feeders that you can see all at once from a window. The area should be one you glance at frequently during your daily routine.
 - Don't include birds seen off premises.
 - Predators perching in or swooping through the count area (not just flying over) may be counted if you feel that they were attracted by the birds at the feeder.
 - Record the largest number of each species that you see in your count area during the eight-day count period.
 - Do not add counts from previous days together. Be specific with the species name, e.g. we can't use just the name Sparrow, Blackbird or Gull.
 - At the end of the count period, record your final tallies and send in the form immediately.
- Personal observations and comments are welcome as are suggestions to improve the surveys and reports.

Please send your report to:

John McNeil
168 Lexington Rd
Shirley NY 11967-3212



Survey Dates:

Sun., Feb. 1 to Sun., Feb. 7

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

_____ Mourning Dove

_____ Northern Cardinal

_____ Blue Jay

_____ House Finch

_____ Black-capped Chickadee

_____ Tufted Titmouse

_____ Downy Woodpecker

_____ White-throated Sparrow

_____ Dark-eyed Junco

_____ House Sparrow

_____ White-breasted Nuthatch

_____ Song Sparrow

_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker

_____ American Crow

_____ European Starling

_____ Common Grackle

_____ Carolina Wren

_____ Northern Mockingbird

_____ American Goldfinch

_____ Red-winged Blackbird

_____ Hairy Woodpecker

_____ Common Flicker

_____ Rufous-sided Towhee

_____ American Robin

_____ Brown-headed Cowbird

_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk

_____ Rock Dove (pigeon)

_____ Gray Catbird

_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler

_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch

_____ Other

Survey Dates:

Sun., March 1 to Sun., March 7

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

_____ Mourning Dove

_____ Northern Cardinal

_____ Blue Jay

_____ House Finch

_____ Black-capped Chickadee

_____ Tufted Titmouse

_____ Downy Woodpecker

_____ White-throated Sparrow

_____ Dark-eyed Junco

_____ House Sparrow

_____ White-breasted Nuthatch

_____ Song Sparrow

_____ Red-bellied Woodpecker

_____ American Crow

_____ European Starling

_____ Common Grackle

_____ Carolina Wren

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_____ American Goldfinch

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_____ Brown-headed Cowbird

_____ Sharp-shinned Hawk

_____ Rock Dove (pigeon)

_____ Gray Catbird

_____ Yellow-rumped Warbler

_____ Red-breasted Nuthatch

_____ Other

The **OSPREY**

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eliasosprey@optonline.net

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For \$20 a year, you will receive 6 issues of *The Osprey* and you will be supporting our local education and conservation activities.

This is a Renewal New Membership

I would like to make a donation of _____ in addition to my membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

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