



THE OSPREY

November/December 2016 — Vol. XLI, No. 6




Gigi and Don Spates presented the Osprey Award to Allyson and Dan Wilson for their continued work on the Seed Sale and the work they did to protect the horseshoe crabs on Dune Road when the tides were washing them on to the road. Byron Young, ELIAS president, standing, looks on, as does the speaker, Dr. Russell Burke seated right.

Dinner at The Birchwood

Each year ELIAS members get together to socialize and get to know each other a little better in a purely social setting with no birds to distract us. This year we welcomed Dr. Russell Burke from Hofstra as our speaker on the probability that coyotes are coming to Long Island. As a professor of biology and wildlife ecology he has studied quite a few species and their population expansions and/or contractions. We learned that although the expansion of the coyote onto Long Island could be a fairly slow one. They are coming.

A few fears were addressed and a few were confirmed, yes, coyotes are able to jump fences into backyards to take small pets, their main prey however, is small rodents. One warning, do not feed coyotes. You do not want the coyotes to associate people with food.

One of the ways coyotes will be able to get onto Long Island is via the railroad tracks. Once they learn to use the tracks to their advantage, there is food a plenty for them, both train kill, and rodents, and a certain amount of safety once they learn to stay out of the way of the trains. 




IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Last year the board decided that in an effort to make the jobs of our member-volunteers a little easier, all memberships in ELIAS will run from January to January. So even if you join in July, your membership will expire in January. Which means, that now is the time to renew your membership so you get the most out of it.

Flip to the back and send in your renewal form. You will not receive any other notices. We are still working on coordinating and getting your expiration date on your label on the back of the newsletter. So far the coordination has been lacking but we continue to work on it.

If you include your email on the form, you will be added to our Constant Contact list and you will receive notices about upcoming events a few days before the event.

A special thank you to all those who renewed their membership when they sent in the dinner reservations or raffle ticket order. Those memberships will start in January and carry through the year.

So, Good Birding to all of you in the New Year! I hope you will join us on some of our adventures as we explore Long Island and do come to our meetings when each month we present an interesting topic with an expert in their field. 

The President's Corner

We are but tenants on this planet

Byron Young

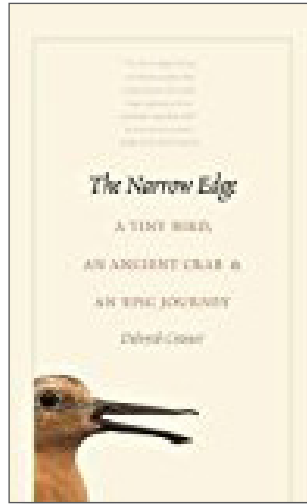
This quote from the book by Deborah Cramer entitled *The Narrow Edge, A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab & an Epic Journey* lays the foundation for this well written book.

The author describes her travels across two continents, from the southern tip of South America in Tierra del Fuego and the remote wind blown beaches to the northern edge of North America. The book provides interesting details regarding the history of each stop as well as introducing us to the people who study both Red Knot and Horseshoe Crabs.


You will trace the Red Knots interactions with humans and its food sources as it undertakes an annual migration, nearly 9500 miles each way. The author weaves her travels in search of Red Knot and Horseshoe crabs with a well documented journey through time. It is especially interesting when the author can document the presence of Red Knot in human history and the impacts that our forefathers had on the ecology that we see today.

You will travel via ATV, airplane, boats, and on foot in search of Red Knot, and horseshoe crabs. More importantly, you will be taken on a journey that involves human history, geologic history and current history as it relates to the Red Knots and Horseshoe crabs. You will visit medical facilities where blood is extracted from Horseshoe crabs to be used in the detection of toxins in medicines. The author ponders the question of utilizing the Horseshoe crab resource for human health concerns versus as an energy source for the Red Knot and other shorebirds.

While I might debate a few of the author's observations I genuinely enjoyed this book. The author's writing style is a travel log of her adventures. The scientific information is presented in an easy to read fashion and provides the reader with valuable follow up sources.



Many of us have observed the shorebirds and Horseshoe crabs around Long Island and have seen first hand the impacts that face them. This book will expand that view across the range of the Red Knot and bring us a closer view of the survival of the Horseshoe crab, which has graced this planet since the time of dinosaurs.

I recommend this book to everyone, as one person's view of the plight of our shorebird populations, and Horseshoe crab populations that supports not only the shorebirds that need the eggs deposited along their migratory path but their blood which is used to test for toxins in medicines. More importantly, it provides a reflection upon the impacts of our forefathers, and our current activities least we forget that *We are but tenants on this planet.* 

**If there are any changes in plans
due to weather we will put
information on the web site:**

www.easternlongislandaudubonsociety.org

**and send out a notice with our
Constant Contact email list.**

Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

There are no December Field Trips – instead, you are invited to participate in one of the 3 Christmas Bird Counts.

Each year, thousands of bird lovers world-wide take to the field to do a little “snapshot” counting of what birds are found within a count circle. Locally, there are a number of teams which head out – some beginning in the pre-dawn hours and completing after the sun sets, while other participants count from their kitchen windows throughout the day! Everything contributes to the most comprehensive observation of birds – species and numbers – around!

A number of count circles have been established and counted for over 50 years. And a great deal of information – and details – can be learned by looking at: www.audubon.org and following the links to the CBC. Learn which Count may be of interest to you – and where the Count Circles are located. Everyone is welcome to participate – any level of birder is welcome. For more details, please check the information below:

Quogue-Water Mill CBC

Saturday, December 17
Contact Steve Biasetti at sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org or 631-874-4684

Central Suffolk Tuesday, December 27

Contact Eileen Schwinn at beachmed@optonline.net

Orient Saturday, January 2, 2016

Contact Pat Hanly at pat@mattpres.com

WATERFOWL CENSUS January 16 to 24

Yaphank to Peconic Bay

Contact Rosemary Valente at Paisanovich@yahoo.com

Montauk to Shinnecock

Contact Frank Quevedo at 631.537.9735 or sofoexdir@optonline.com

Reeves Bay to Noyack Bay and Fresh Pond to Sag Harbor

Contact John McNeil at 631.281.2623 or jpmcneil@verizon.net 

ELIAS Meetings

Monday, November 7, 2016, at 7:15 pm

Birding in Costa Rica

Bob Adamo

This past February, Dave Larsen and I spent 10 days in Costa Rica. With our native guide we found 296 species, exceeding even the lofty number of birds we had hoped for! Among the groups were: 27 species of raptors, including 4 species of owls; 26 species of flycatchers; 24 species of hummingbirds; 22 species of tanagers; 17 species of warblers and 14 species of blackbirds/orioles, to just mention those groups of species in double figures! Dave, who has birded in Costa Rica many times, had 55 new species, while I, who had only birded in Costa Rica once before, had 125 "newbies"! Included in these were my two top target birds... but you'll have to come to the meeting to find out their identities!

Monday, December 3, 2016, at 7:15 pm

Tell me about the bees...

Presented by Carrie Davis

Carrie Davis is a beekeeper, beekeeping teacher and owner of Honey Heaven. She tends approximately 40 hives on the South Shore of Long Island and assists other beekeepers with their colonies. Carrie's interest, care and concern comes from a great respect for their collective lives and their impact on our lives as a whole. Through teaching others she raises awareness, understanding and appreciation for these amazing creatures. She nurtures beginning beekeepers and encourages veteran beekeepers through her knowledge and experience.

There is no January meeting. 



Enjoying the North Fork Preserve on Sept. 17 with Eileen Schwinn leading the group. The birding was a little slow, only 16 species were spotted. But it was a beautiful day to be out.

Late Fall Bird Walks & Christmas Bird Counts

Saturday, November 19, 2016 – Meet at 9:00 am

Hallock Farm Museum Fields & Hallock State Park

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

This walk is roughly a 2-mile walk through Museum fields and hedgerows and into the woods of Hallock State Park. Walking into the park we will reach dunes with spectacular views of Long Island Sound. We are hoping for a variety of migrants, and wintering birds. Bring binoculars. Dress for the weather. There is a \$7 charge for this walk, \$5 for members of Hallock Museum Farm. The fee benefits the Museum's education fund. Please call the Museum for reservations, 631-298-5292.

Sunday, November 20, 2016 – Meet at 9:00 am

William Floyd Estate

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

Come to Mastic for the last walk of the season at The William Floyd Estate. This 613 acre estate includes mowed fields, woods, creeks and salt marshes. With this variety of habitat we should find wintering hawks, ducks, sparrows, and perhaps bluebirds and eagles. Round trip walk is about 3 miles. Bring binoculars. The main entrance is 245 Park Drive in Mastic. Call the trip leader MaryLaura Lamont at the Estate at 631.399.2030 for details. There is no charge for this walk.

December Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

We urge all our members to take part in the Christmas Bird Counts. See page 2 for contact information.

January Waterfowl Census

See page 2 for contact information.

Saturday, January 7, 2016 – Meet at 9:00 am

Lakes Around Patchogue

Meet at the parking area at corner Lake Drive and East Main Street in East Patchogue by the side of Swan Lake. We will check out Swan Lake and then visit several other favorite spots for a look at the bountiful water birds that flock to LI in the winter. Always hoping for a few surprises!



Birding at Medicine Bow Curve

Rocky Mountain Encounter

Photos and text by Hannah Mirando

Camp Colorado: birds, friends, and unforgettable memories. I experienced all this and more when I attended the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado last summer. Camp Colorado is oriented towards kids between the ages of 13-18 who have an interest in birds and general ecology. It is located in Estes, Colorado which borders beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park. Thanks to the Eastern Long Island Audubon Society and the help of many others, I was able to explore the



Rocky Mountains with Camp Colorado on July 16th through July 22nd.

The Rocky Mountains are an important area for wildlife and birds because it includes a combination of eastern and western species. Due to its range in elevation, it also encompasses many unique habitats ranging from prairie to alpine tundra. Within each environment is a diverse ecosystem that is formed through the intricate relationships of the organisms living there. Fortunately, many of these important natural places are protected in the form of parks and wildlife areas. Every year, people from across the country come to visit and appreciate Colorado's wild spaces.

Camp Colorado's home base is located at the YMCA of the Rockies. The facility includes vibrant woods and valleys that we were able to explore throughout the course of the week. A bowl of mountainous peaks greeted us every morning when we emerged from our

On our Wild Basin excursion we watched the American Dipper. Small and brown, it's not especially exciting looking by any means. However, its behavior is one of the most interesting yet.

dorm rooms, ready for an adventure. After driving from the airport, this was the site of my first Colorado birding experience. A quick walk around the property with some new friends produced Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, and Cassin's Finch. Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels skittered around the fields and Tri-Colored Bumblebees buzzed through the flower beds. Over the course of the week, the YMCA of the Rockies became our gathering place and temporary Rocky Mountain home.

Mornings were early at Camp Colorado. We woke up one day just as the sun was rising to drive over to Wild Basin, a trail within the National Park. There, we received a chance to see many montane (ecosystem found in mountains) bird species including MacGillivray's Warbler and Townsend's Solitaire. A camp favorite were the Black Swifts that flew overhead, lifers for a majority of the group. However, my personal favorite of our Wild Basin excursion was a bird called the American Dipper. Small and brown, it's not especially exciting looking by any means. However, its behavior is one of the most interesting yet. To feed, the American Dipper literally



The girls in the group, left to right, Eliza Fraser, Madelyne Ray, myself, and Carolina Fraser

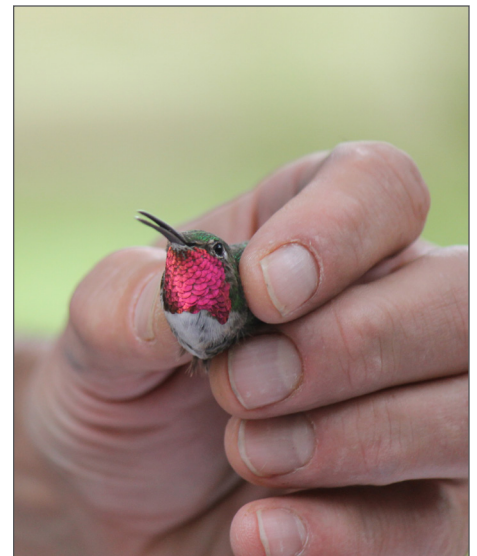
“dips” itself into the stream. It dives down underneath swirling rapids and tumultuous waters in order to snatch up aquatic insects and their larvae. It spends its entire existence involved with the stream. In fact, the American Dipper rarely strays any more than six feet from the banks of it. Fortunately for us, we were able to get an up close experience with these amazing little birds. We observed two nesting pairs of Dippers who were cooperative enough for the whole group to successfully view and photograph them. One of the nests was exposed enough for us to see the orange mouths of the babies, whenever the parents swooped in to feed them.

While we had been doing a fair amount of birding in montane habitat for the first part of camp, we soon took a day trip to Pawnee National Grasslands. Pawnee is a large expanse of shortgrass prairie that is home to an array of animals. Our birding efforts were rewarded with a variety of species including Burrowing Owls, Lark Bunting, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and over 20 Mountain Plovers! All of these species are able to thrive in the grasslands thanks to the little prairie dog. The prairie dog is an important keystone animal in places such as here. The natural grasses are kept short by their feeding habits, which creates a habitat attractive to birds such as Longspurs and Mountain Plovers. In addition, their intricate prairie dog towns provide homes for the Burrowing Owls and other wildlife. We caught a glimpse of an American Badger as he popped his head out of an abandoned prairie dog hole. They also provide a vital food source

for predators of the area, such as the Ferruginous Hawk or Swift Fox. Overall, the prairie dog is crucial to the Pawnee Grasslands and many prairie habitats like it.

Another biome that we visited was the alpine tundra, at the highest elevations of the Rockies. To get there, we had to drive up Trail Ridge Road, a winding route that slowly climbed up the mountains. On our way, we passed snow caps, krumholtz trees, and herds of elk. Our destination at the end of the road was Medicine Bow Curve, a trail over 11,000 feet high. The stunning views exhibited snow topped peaks and the beginning of the Colorado River. The trail ran through a variety of short vegetation and alpine wildflowers. We were careful to tread lightly, as some of these flowers have taken decades to bloom under the harsh tundra conditions. Just like the flowers, only some birds can live in elevations this high, such as White-Crowned Sparrows, American Pipits, and Clark’s Nutcrackers. Many birders also come to attempt a glimpse at the White-tailed Ptarmigan that can only be seen by an observant eye. This was one of our main target birds on our walk along the Curve. We all worked together to scan the rocky mountaintop for ptarmigans, but as time ticked by we began to get discouraged. Finally, after much anticipation, a ptarmigan was spotted in the far distance, followed by her three young chicks. Extremely camouflaged, they were difficult to pick out even with a spotting scope. On our

Pawnee National Grasslands is a large expanse of shortgrass prairie that is home to an array of animals. Animals can be difficult to pick out, but they are there. Many making use of the prairie dog burrows.




Banding a Broad-tailed Hummingbird

way back down Trail Ridge Road, we also stopped on several outcroppings to view Brown-capped Rosy Finches fluttering around the snow caps. Little rodents called American Pikas also scurried around the rocks, as Yellow-Bellied Marmots lazily sauntered by. Although the alpine tundra may seem barren to the casual observer, it is actually an environment filled with animals and plants that have evolved to survive its extreme conditions.

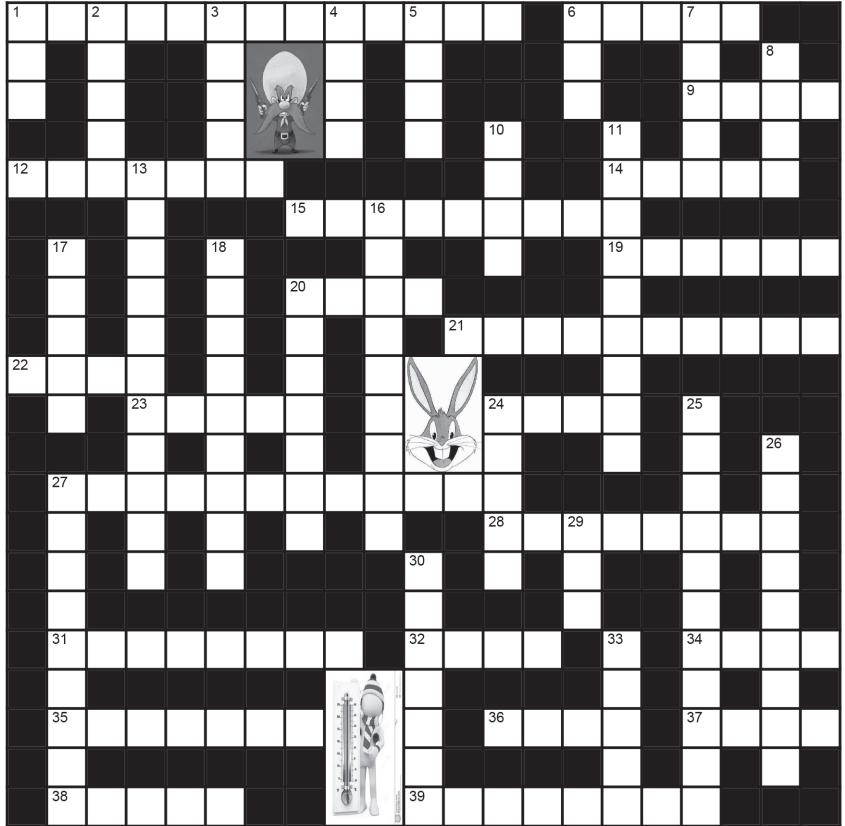
Camp Colorado gave me the opportunity to see so many amazing new birds. Over the course of the week, I saw 61 lifers and other unfamiliar wildlife. However, some of the most important things I took away from camp were the lessons on improving my observational aptitude. Each one of

continued from page 5

our instructors was highly experienced and taught us how to become better naturalists. Through workshops and interactions in the field I learned all types of skills including photography, bird identification, and birding by ear. One of my favorite workshops was focused on sketching birds with instructor Jen Brumfield. Not only did she teach us the logistics of avian sketching, but also how drawing our observations encouraged a fuller understanding of the species. Although sketching may have seemed a bit intimidating to non-artists like myself, it proved to be easier than expected. In fact, I found it so enjoyable that I started my own personal journal which has helped me to progress significantly. In addition, we were able to do a hands-on bird banding workshop with guest Scott Rashid, who regularly bands at the YMCA's own banding station. After showing us the proper equipment and procedure to band the different species, several of us got a chance to release birds ourselves. Little is more extraordinary than feeling the heartbeat of a bird within one's hands, and the flutter of its wings as it flies away.

I would recommend ABA Camp Colorado to any young birder who is interested in seeing new birds, improving themselves, and making connections with similar people. I have made many valuable bonds with the campers I met there. It was amazing to know that there are other people with the same interests as I, and even more incredible to become friends with them. I am certain that many of these friendships will last my lifetime. I am so thankful for the support of my parents, instructors, and organizations such as the ELIAS that enabled me to have this experience. It is something that has influenced my world views and taught me to embrace nature in a new way. 

DRESS WARM AND GO BIRDING! Tom Moran



Across

- 1 American _____, big orange bill
- 6 _____ Beach, forget about Green Acres, West End 2 is the place to be!
- 9 _____ Road, Shinnecock to Cupsogue
- 12 Check out Upper and Lower _____ Lake
- 14 Great, Snowy and if you're lucky Cattle
- 15 Yellow-bellied _____, Yosemite Sam called Bugs Bunny one as an insult, but a good find for a birder
- 19 Northern _____, it's fun to watch them crash dive into the ocean
- 20 Yellow-breasted _____, an elusive skulker
- 21 Common _____, sighted at 6 Across in 2014 (2 words), not to be confused with our common Mourning version
- 22 Crazy as a _____
- 23 Canada, eh, Barnacle, *wohoo!*
- 24 And since we're talking about 23 Across, look for the _____ morph of the Snow Goose
- 27 _____ Vireo, an RBA for this Sept.
- 28 Northern _____ his mitre has no gold
- 31 _____ State Farm Preserve, recently created next to the Museum Farm
- 32 _____-billed Dowitcher, uncommon sighting this October at Robert Moses SP
- 34 *To every season*, bird spelling, though
- 35 Common or Boat-tailed _____
- 36 Mute _____, but they aren't really mute, are they?
- 37 You old _____
- 38 Check this species out at William Floyd from Osprey Point Park in Mastic
- 39 _____ Lake, aka Seatuck Creek. Get both Scaup, Canvasback and other treats here

Down

- 1 Barn _____, used the nesting box at Jamaica Bay
- 2 Greater or Lesser _____
- 3 Batman's helper
- 4 A large number is called a stand. Large stands of _____ Swallows can be seen along barrier beaches in the fall.
- 5 Accipiters and Buteos, but just one
- 6 Blue _____
- 7 King _____, seen from Montauk Point last winter
- 8 Why _____? birder spelling
- 10 What you should do if you get too close to a Goshawk nest
- 11 Common, Hooded or Red-breasted
- 13 Rufous _____ seen at Elizabeth Morton NWR this August
- 16 Red-necked _____, an RBA bird for September this year
- 17 Great-blue _____
- 18 Check the light towers on the jetties at Montauk Inlet or Shinnecock for a Great _____
- 20 Brown _____, maybe should be called Brown Climber?
- 24 Check the Riverhead sod farms this winter for a Yellow-headed _____ bird
- 25 Another RBA for September, _____ Warbler, not New York, not Massachusetts
- 26 The Cal in EPCAL
- 27 Check out Swan Lake in East _____ this winter
- 29 _____ with 8 Down
- 30 Black _____, unusual sighting at the Fire Island Hawk Watch this October
- 33 Slate colored _____

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Answers to last issue's puzzle
Yay Summer! by Tom Moran



PHOTO: SALLY NEWBERT

TIPS TO DETER – OR ACCEPT – HAWKS AT YOUR FEEDERS

From National Wildlife

If seeing your favorite feeder birds turn into lunch for a hungry Cooper's Hawk or Sharp-shinned Hawk is upsetting there are steps you can take to protect backyard prey from raptors:

Create cover: Plant native trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, near feeders. Build an 8-foot wide by 4-foot high brush piles no more than 20 feet away from your feeders. Both give birds places to dive into and escape, not only from hawks but also from cats. If your plants provide seeds or fruit, birds can feed while taking cover.

Prevent window collisions: Birds often mistake glass for a passageway or reflected landscape. They also may hit windows when trying to escape hawks. A stunned, disoriented bird will be much easier prey for a raptor. To minimize collisions, add "visual noise," such as bird-warning decals and a screens to the outside of see-through or reflective windows and sliding-glass doors. In addition, consider moving feeders to within 3 feet of your windows to reduce the chance of an accelerated flight into the glass.

Cover up: Because hawks are attracted to the sight of prey activity try keeping feeder customers out of view. Tarps and even umbrellas can be useful. Look for bird feeders with roofs or add non-see-through covers.


Avoid ground feeding: Birds that are eating on the ground are particularly

susceptible to hawk attacks. These birds cannot react as quickly and have fewer escape routes. Consider switching to hanging platform feeders for ground feeding birds such as sparrow and doves.

Cage or fence: Wire-caged feeders designed to keep out larger birds like jays may also help small birds dodge hawks. Some people put up 4-foot-high habitat fencing to keep hawks from swooping over and down to any seed eaters on the ground.

Close down: If despite our deterrence measures, hawks still are preying on birds at your feeders close them down temporarily, for about a week or so. Hawks will go elsewhere. If the raptors return after you reopen the feeders, close them down again for a longer period of time.

Let nature take its course:

Alternatively, you can accept that raptors are part of nature, too, and deserve nourishment as much as do the songbirds that visit your feeders. Predators such as Coopers's and Sharp-shinned Hawks are important parts of healthy ecosystems, often preying on birds that are weakened by illness or age. Hawks also are protected by state and federal laws, so never harm or harass the animals. In fact, many backyard birders are so thrilled to observe predator-prey interactions without leaving home that they put out the welcome mat for raptors. 



Order Your ELIAS 2017 Calendar

The calendar makes a wonderful holiday gift.

All the photos were taken right here on the East End of Long Island by members of ELIAS.

Please send me _____ ELIAS Calendars @ \$10 each. _____. Shipping is \$5.00 for one to three calendars.

My check is enclosed for _____.

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Please return this form to ELIAS, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206

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New Bird Biology Course, The Free First Lesson is Free

from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Ithaca, N.Y.

Anyone with an interest in birds will broaden their understanding of these complex and beautiful creatures with a brand-new course just released by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This college-level, self-paced course is called Ornithology: Comprehensive Bird Biology. It is a total makeover of its predecessor, the Lab's Home Study Course in Bird Biology, which has been offered for more than 40 years.

"Whether you are a home-school family, a teenager fascinated by nature, a mid-career professional with a weekend hobby, or a retiree looking for new insights about the birds out your window, this course and these materials will enrich your life beyond measure," said Cornell Lab director John W. Fitzpatrick.

The course is based on the all-new third edition of the Handbook of Bird Biology (required) and enhanced by a wealth of online materials including videos, interactive animations, quizzes, and additional reading, all presented through the Lab's online educational site called Bird Academy.

Try the first lesson and a sample quiz for free to get a sense of what the course is all about at <http://bit.ly/2d0t9vM>.

Combined, the course and the new text cover all aspects of avian diversity, behavior, ecology, evolution, physiology,

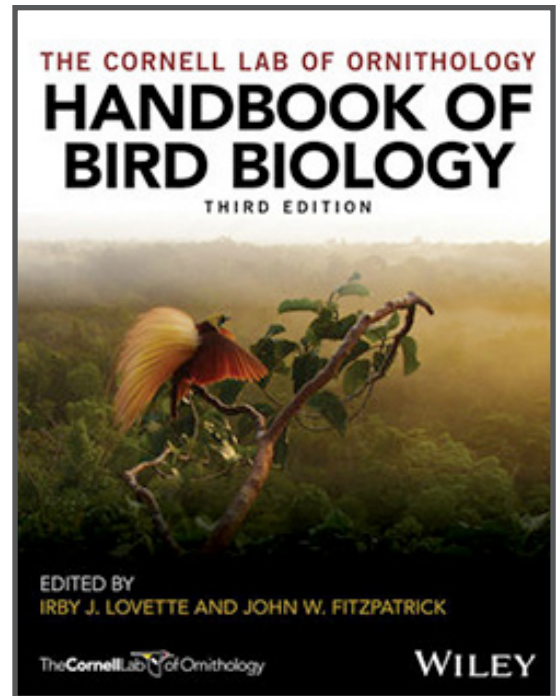
and conservation. Students earn digital badges for passing quizzes and reaching other milestones. Those who pass the course can request a printed certificate signed by the director of the Cornell Lab, Dr. John W. Fitzpatrick.


Those who have previewed the *Handbook of Bird Biology*, the new edition of the *Handbook of Bird Biology* text are raving about it.

"This wonderful handbook provides a crystal-clear introduction to every fascinating aspect of bird biology. It will now be my own first reference source about birds," says Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The course is \$239 dollars (\$199 for Lab members) and the text is \$135 (\$121.50 for Lab members). For additional information about the course and text, visit birdbiology.org.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab's website at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.



The new edition of the Handbook of Bird Biology provides expanded and updated information about birds, written by world-renowned ornithologists from Cornell and beyond. It includes more than 800 full-color illustrations. A companion online media library is freely available to anyone whether they take the course or purchase the text only. 

"Home of the 99 cent Suet Cake"



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Teen Scholarships Are Available for Summer Camp

ELIAS is offering scholarships for three students in grades 7 through 12. The campers would attend New York State Department of Conservation camps for one week. The 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 candidates of the scholarship. Include environmental experiences and interests. Also, describe what benefit they might derive from the experience.
- At the bottom of the essay, the candidate should include his or her name, address, city, state, zip, phone, date of birth, name of school and grade. The student should also note 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 by February 4, 2017 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 _____

Have you ever attended an outdoor education/ecology camp? If SO, what camp, where, and when?

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Some of the beautiful ducks that make LI their winter home

This is the season or soon it will be the season to go out in the cold and try to find some unusual ducks. There are roughly 28 species of ducks that frequent the waters around Long Island and if you are fortunate you may scare up a few more. Recently I came across an article about the Harlequin Duck. Done as a radio blurb, they are fortunate to have the sounds to go with the ducks.

Here is what they have to say:

The Hardy Harlequin

Written by Todd Peterson for BirdNote

Some ducks don't sound like ducks at all. Some — like the Harlequin — earning them the nick name of “sea mice.”

Harlequins are unique in the duck world in other ways as well. Alone among North American waterfowl, Harlequins breed along fast-flowing rivers and streams. Quick and agile in rushing white water, they dive to the bottom of mountain streams for food.

What kind of a name is “Harlequin” for a duck? If you're lucky enough to spot one of these rare birds in winter you may guess the answer.

Dressed in multi-colored patches, Harlequin is the jester of traditional Italian comedy. The male duck with the jester's name is just as striking, with his slate-blue feathers and vivid white, black, and chestnut markings.

The rigorous lives of Harlequins require great adaptability — transitioning from fresh water to salt, from meals of caddis fly larvae to crabs and barnacles. Some, in fact, migrate by traveling directly downstream from the mountains to the ocean. Constant, however, is their unmatched ability to swim and feed in the turbulent waters where they live. 🦆



These Harlequin Ducks were found last year of the jetties of Orient Point. They are gorgeous ducks. Frequently they are spotted in Nassau off the jetties in Point Lookout, both spots with fast moving water.



Two more beautiful ducks that can be found in Long Island waters, include the Common Eider, one of the largest ducks, its size and the distinctive coloring of the male makes it reasonably easy to spot off Montauk. (Below) An unusual visitor is the Eurasian Teal. Found at the Millpond in East Seatauket last Spring.



The **OSPREY**

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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 _____

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Please be sure to include your email. You will receive an email confirmation, a pdf of the first newsletter and updates and reminders of programs and trips including notices of any program changes or cancellations due to weather. This list is not shared.

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