



THE OSPREY

March/April 2016 — Vol. XLI, No. 2



Short-eared Owls at EPCAL by Byron Young

A Quick Look at a Few Winter Visitors

Sally Newbert

So, it's cold out, but cabin fever has gotten to you and you long to be outside and do some birding. You are in luck. There are quite a few species of birds that we, on Long Island, only get to see in the winter. This must be their version of Palm Beach.

The Short-eared owls have been spotted again at EPCAL. Byron Young just happened to catch them exchanging a vole. Was it part of a courting ritual? Maybe. The owls can usually be seen right before sunset hunting over the fields near Route 25. There are a few places to pull over leading up to the eastern runways. Driving on the runways is taboo.



An American Bittern is a frequent winter visitor to Dune Road. He disguises himself as a reed and will stand still in order not to be seen. The Harlequin Ducks, these at Orient, are usually found in small groups near the rocks. Photos by Sally Newbert



The most sought after of our wintering birds is the Snowy Owl. I have not been lucky enough to see one this year, but they can sometimes be spotted along Dune Road. Check the duck blinds. While you are on Dune Road, if its low tide, check the ditches west of the Ponquogue Bridge for American Bittern, Night Heron and Clapper Rail.

There are a multitude of wintering ducks. Check just off the jetty at Shinnecock for Common Eider. The males are large black and white ducks. What suggests the far north as much as Eider and the thoughts of a nice warm Eiderdown quilt? By the way the feathers have been collected for, well, probably centuries without killing the ducks. Check the tower at the end of jetty, frequently there is a Great Cormorant sitting there in winter.

Another exceptionally attractive duck is the Harlequin Duck. In my mind it is in competition with the Wood Duck as our most attractive duck. The Wood Duck can be found here year round but since they are so attractive they can be very secretive. Back to the Harlequin Ducks. They are usually found near rocky jetties, both at Orient by the lighthouse and in Nassau County by the jetties at Point Lookout. Good luck. Hope you find some surprises when you go out.

Warbler season is coming up and ELIAS is planning lots of walks. 🐦

The President's Corner

We are guests in their house...

Byron Young

During the last ELIAS board meeting the subject of birding and wildlife photography ethics came up in relation to our visiting Snowy Owls and Short-eared Owls. This is not a new topic and one that comes up every year when these beautiful and rare species make an appearance. Long Island receives a number of rare visitors each year from the Snowy Owl in the winter to rare shorebirds in the summer and fall. The Eskimo Curlew is an example of a rare shorebird visiting us a couple of years back. Our rare visitors come in many sizes, shapes and colors. The Painted Bunting visiting Prospect Park this fall is one of those colorful examples.

Such visitors cause a great deal of excitement for birders and nature photographers, drawing visitors from near and far. This excitement opens the ethical debate again as folks crowd to obtain the best views or their next great photo. While considering this topic I did a Google Search for birding ethics guidelines and nature photography ethics guidelines. I found a number of ethical guidelines for birders and nature photographers. What I found was that both groups follow similar general guidelines. However, each group tends to emphasize some specific set of ethical observation guidelines.

The American Birding Association provides the guidelines for ethical birding that is the general guideline for Audubon Chapters and ethical birders. I found several nature photographer Codes of Conduct guidelines. The Nature Photographers Network summarized the prevailing views of nature photography ethics. Basically, whether you are a birder, a photographer or both, the over arching principal that we should follow is the title of this piece, "We are guests in their house."

For those of you who might want to view those guidelines, The American Birding Association Principle of Birding Ethics can be found at: (www.aba.org/about/ethics/html) and the Nature Photographers Code of Conduct can be found at: (www.naturephotographers.net/codeofconduct.html).

Let me attempt to simplify the ABA and Photographers ethics codes into three short sentences:

- Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.
- Respect the law and the rights of others, including our wildlife.
- Be responsible for your actions while observing or photographing birds.

Our Chapter subscribes to the American Birding Principle of Birding Ethics, though to my knowledge we have not made it our official policy. Likewise many of our members are nature photographers as can be seen in our recent calendar publications. Here again we have no official policy but most of us apply the Birding Principles for our photography

We as a Chapter have many opportunities to educate others and ourselves about birding and photography ethics at our monthly meetings, on Field Trips, during Earth Day, just casual interactions with others, or through our publications. I am sure that each of us has a bucket list full of birds we would like to see or photograph.

I am an avid birder and wildlife photographer; my guiding principle is that I am a birder and photographer of opportunity. I do not attempt to force the issue with any wildlife, I let them do what they are doing and if they want to sit in the open and let me take their picture, I simply oblige them and say thank you. However, much of the time they are timid or shy hiding behind a branch or leaves while playing hide and seek with me.

Throughout much of January, I attempted to view the Short-eared owls being seen at EPCAL. My first several attempts were failures, and then finally on January 27 I had success, I would say it was a great success. While my photographs were less than spectacular the interaction was memorable. (See photo on page 1) I got to observe a pair of Short-eared owls hunting over the EPCAL grasslands at close range and for a brief moment watch them in a courtship display involving a very unhappy vole

and some intriguing aerial displays. The owls did not seem to be bothered by the large group of birders and photographers. One of the owls flew directly over my head, probably within 25 feet of me. The birds were hunting all around the photographers and while aware of their presence were intent upon food and courtship activities much to the observers pleasure. It is these opportunities that we all seek; however, let me remind you that they do not happen all the time.

Please remember to exercise patience while observing and photographing our local wildlife. Represent our avocation with grace, dignity, and common sense. Teach others our ethical values when it comes to viewing, photographing and observing wildlife. Please be safe and enjoy the show when it arrives at your location. ➤

**Join ELIAS at the
Earth Day Celebration at
Quogue Wildlife Refuge on
Saturday, April 30
Details on page 8.**



**Plans are being made for the
2017 ELIAS Calendar.**

**Take your camera
to get that great shot!**

**Deadline will be in
early September.**

More information to come.

Whats Happening?



ELIAS MEETINGS

Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:15 pm at Quogue Wildlife Refuge

Gulls Redux John Heidecker



John spoke to us in 2013, since then he has added and worked on his program. It is designed to help folks identify the three gull species, Ring-Billed, Herring and Great Black-backed that are found on Long Island. John will show examples of these species in all stages of their growth. He will work to develop your skill at IDing and being able to pick out the other gull species that show up in our area, like the Laughing, Bonapartes and Lesser Black-backed Gull to name a few. He will also give examples of texts, websites, Facebook and various blogs to further help one gain more knowledge.

John has been a member of Nikon Professional Services, NPS, for over 20 years, North American Nature American Nature Photographers, NANPA, Audubon Society and Long Island camera clubs. His images have appeared in Living Bird, Bird Watching, Audubon Society and Nature Conservancy calendars, and National Geographic Bird Field Guides.

Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:15 pm at Quogue Wildlife Refuge

Warblers by Sight and Sound Katie Kleinpeter

A glimpse of movement, a flash of color, a magical melody only heard once a year. Our feathered friends are soon to arrive, the jewels of the forest, our North American warblers. Get ready for the upcoming migration season with an overview of some of our most frequent warblers and some rare, sought after special visitors. Get re-acquainted with these colorful birds through photographs featuring Long Island artists. Katie will talk about how to break down the songs of the warblers into easier, more manageable learning groups and review the field marks that are important for identification.

Katie has been a member of ELIAS for 2 years and a birder all her life. Inspired by master birders Bob McGrath and MaryLaura Lamont, she began listening closely to birdsong in 2009.



Yellow Warbler and Pine Warbler are among the warblers that breed on LI.

ADVENTURES IN THE FIELD

Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 8:30 am

Morton National Wildlife Refuge

(meet in the Parking Lot of the Refuge, off Rte 38/Noyack Road), North Sea

Leader: Eileen Schwinn

Whose 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 maybe even giggle! Join us at a true national treasure, for a re-run of last year's trip to Morton NWR. Generations of birds have become tame enough to eat out of your hand along the mile to mile-and-a-half hike, where we will see over-wintering birds, including woodpeckers, nuthatches, and perhaps Pine Siskins. Dress warmly and appropriately for snow-covered trails. Contact Eileen Schwinn at beachmed@optonline.net for any questions, or call the day of the trip, 516-662-7751. Birdseed will be provided!

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 8:30 am

North Fork Preserve Bird Walk

Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

This early spring bird walk will be about a 2 mile walk through the new Suffolk County Park called the North Fork Preserve in Northville. Woods, fields and freshwater ponds abound on this property. Meet at the Clubhouse at the end of the entrance road on Sound Ave., Northville, Riverhead. The entrance is just east of Church Lane. Contact: marylaura_lamont@nps.gov if you need more information! **Heavy rain cancels program**



STOP THE CAR! I SEE A BIRD!!

Eileen explores Iceland

Eileen Schwinn

Something has to be pretty special to get me to leave Long Island at the height of Warbler Season (mid May). Well, in the Spring of 2015, I did just that and Iceland was TERRIFIC!!!! Interesting to go from 70 degrees and sunshine to 40 degrees, windy and drizzle on and off!!! But, after covering 2165 miles by car – and about 55 miles of walking – over 15 days, I highly recommend the trip to ANYONE! The people are great, all speak excellent English, food was better than expected (not really as odd-ball as we had been lead to believe), accommodations were spotlessly clean and well appointed. A tad expensive, but we sort of knew it would be – the locals have had major economic downturn since 2009 – and some big-deal major strikes of all sorts were a threat throughout the trip (absolutely no effect on our travels, which was a good thing). We visited every waterfall possible

Gullfoss - one of the many waterfalls we hiked to.



– about 10!! Walked to super high cliffs, stood by steaming and bubbling rocks and mud pots, gathered black volcanic sand from beaches and drove through mountainous areas which required snow-plow action before we could cross. And reminded ourselves that the Europeans regard self-preservation the responsibility of each individual – no guard rails on hair-pin, cliff-side roads, no fences/assist railing or ropes on “marked” hiking trails, and, in some cases, even after signs stating “stay on trail”, the “trails” were somewhat vague.....And, although not a birding trip – I traveled with my husband and two dear friends of 30 years – I managed to see 59 species and added 12 birds to my life list. I saw just about every target I set for myself! And the non-birders were gracious about me screaming from the back seat “STOP THE CAR! I SEE A BIRD!!” Here’s a couple of the 1600 photos I took - and yes, most were of birds! What a great trip! 🐦



Eileen and Hans Schwinn on the right with friends after a long hike to see the waterfall.

Below: Thingvellir – where The North American and Eurasian Tectonic plates meet.





After a 30 minute “ride” across the black sand beach – these black volcanic sand beaches and basalt caves have been the backdrop for numerous movies – and then a 40 minute hike uphill, we reached the 250 foot cliff-top - home to nesting Puffins, Puffins, and more Puffins - as well as Razorbills and Murres, and Great Skuas



Black-tailed Godwit



Great Skuas



Nesting Razorbills



Nesting Puffins



Nesting Ringed Plover Can you pick out the egg among the stones?

2016 Long Island Natural History Conference

Friday and Saturday ■ March 18-19, 2016 ■ Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY

Register at www.longislandnature.org Cost is \$40/ \$25 for students

FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2016

The Southern Pine Beetle Infestation on Long Island: Status and Trends

John D. Wernet, Supervising Forester, Division of Lands and Forests, NYS-DEC- Region I

John W. Pavacic, Executive Director, Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Comm.

Overview and Status of the NYS-DEC Colonial Water Bird Program: Where it Has Been, Where it is and Where it is Headed

Chip Hamilton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, NYS-DEC Region One

American Chestnut: Leading the Way to a Healthier Forest

William Powell, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse, NY.

Great Gull Island Terns: Here and There

Helen Hays, Director, Great Gull Island Project.

To Kill a Kudzu: The Status of Exotic Invasive Plants on Long Island

Lara H. Pomi-Urbat, Project Manager/ Environmental Scientist at Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC

Update on The Nature Conservancy's Shellfish Restoration Efforts in Great South Bay

Carl LoBue, Senior Marine Scientist The Nature Conservancy, LI

Adam Starke Marine Scientist The Nature Conservancy, LI

Managing and Restoring Eelgrass on Long Island

Chris Pickerell, Cornell Cooperative Extension Long Island's Parasitic Plants

Dave Taft, Jamaica Bay Coordinator, Gateway National Recreation Area

SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2016

Barcode Long Island: Student-Centered Biodiversity Research

Maria Brown, Science Research Teacher, Sayville High School

Bruce Nash, Assistant Director for Science, Cold Spring Harbor Lab DNA Learning Center

Lizards Among Us: Italian Wall Lizards in Suburbia

Russell L. Burke, Chair, Biology Department, Hofstra University

Climate Changes on Long Island: Past and Future

David Black, SUNY Stony Brook

Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel

Carl Safina, professor for Nature and Humanity at Stony Brook University, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at the University's School of Journalism, founder of The Safina Center.

The Sharks in Our Near Shore Waters: Oh, Just How Little We Know

Gregory M. Metzger, Marine Science Teacher, Southampton High School

Ecology and Natural History of the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake on LI

John Vanek, PhD candidate, Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab. at Southern Illinois University

The Historical Ecology of the Great South Bay's Blue Point Oyster

Jeffrey Kassner, Research Associate, Long Island Maritime Museum West Sayville, NY

Drifters: a Guide to the Stray Tropical Fishes of New York

Todd Gardner, Suffolk Community College, Riverhead, NY

Science Illustration: Art as a Tool for Scientific Inquiry and Understanding.

Mr. Jan Christopher Porinchak, M.F.A

Ms. Amanda Levine, M.A. Marine Biology

Ms. Amanda Furcall, B.A. Conservation Biology 🐟

SBP CONTRACTING

Lic # 7871-H

Specializing in smaller jobs with individual & personal attention to your job.

Also new 550 sq. ft. apartment for rent.

Great spacious water view setting.

Loads of wildlife. For nature lovers only.

Call Sam 631-875-4701

BARTH'S DRUG STORE

Barry D. Barth R.Ph.

32 East Main St.
Riverhead, NY 11901
Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm
Saturday 9am to 4pm
Sunday 9am to 2pm



Eastport Feeds Inc.

Bird Seed

Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Suet

Nutrena Products

Triumph® Horse Feed

Vitality® Horse Feed

Hay • Feed • Bedding

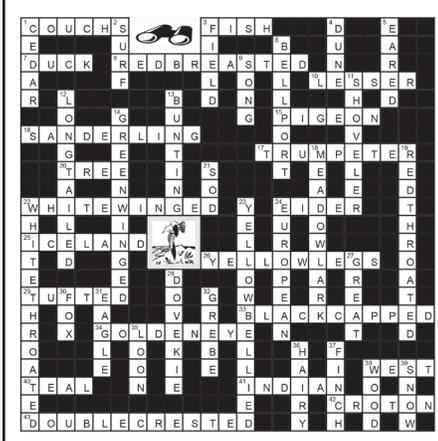
140 East Moriches Blvd.

Eastport, NY 11941

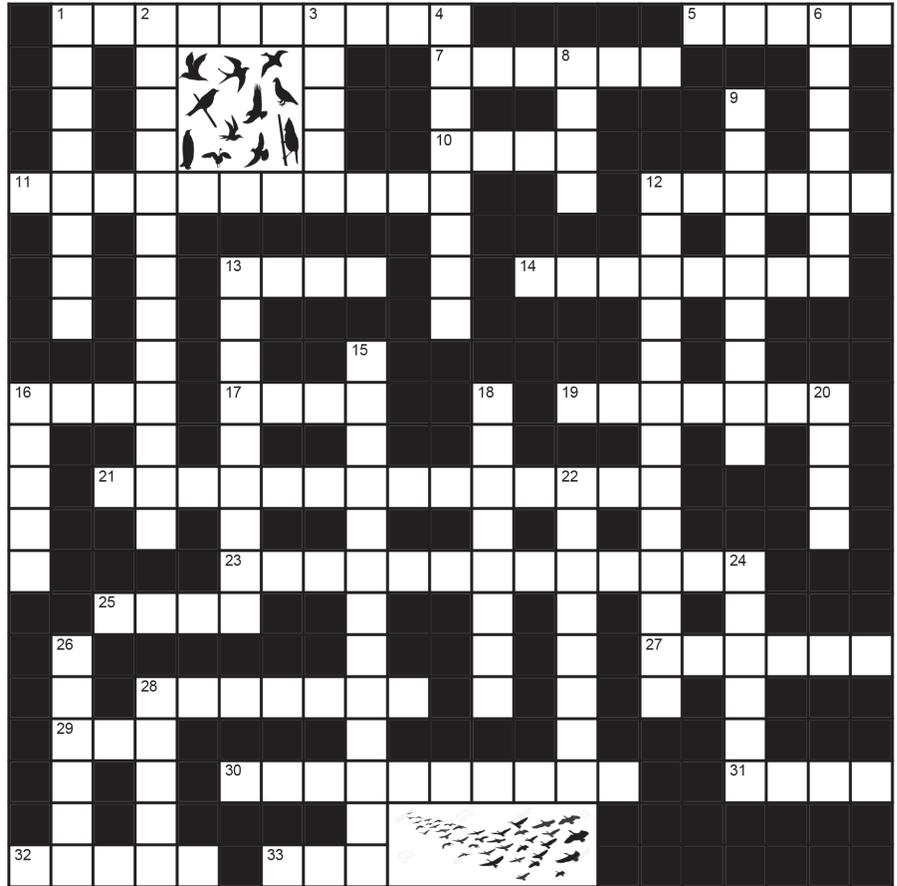
631-325-0077

**Be Sure to Like
Eastern Long Island
Audubon
on Facebook!**

Answers to last issue's puzzle Happy New Year by Tom Moran



Either Or... Tom Moran



Across

- 1 Black or Yellow-crowned
- 5 Horned is good but Eared or Red-necked is better
- 7 Earl Weaver coached this team when the Amazing Mets beat them in the 1969 World Series (singular)
- 10 Blue or Green-winged
- 11 Northern or Louisiana..
- 12 _____ Kingfisher
- 13 _____ Jay, try the Daks
- 14 _____ Wigeon, Sayville Golf Course?
- 16 _____ Goose, with grinning patch
- 17 _____ Crow or something an Osprey likes to eat
- 19 House, White-throated, or Chipping...
- 21 An unusual warbler that was found at Valley Stream and Connetquot River SP last year
- 23 American _____ found by the shore
- 25 Common or Red-throated
- 27 Duck or Titmouse
- 28 Tree, Bank or Cave...
- 29 _____ Gull
- 30 _____ Grackle, neither Common nor Great-tailed
- 31 Common Ground _____ 2014 Jones Beach West End or Mourning everywhere, always
- 32 Wilsons _____ maybe at North Fork Preserve look on muddy pond banks
- 33 _____-headed Woodpecker, a recent visitor at Blydenburgh CP

Down

- 1 Red or White-breasted
- 2 _____ Kinglet
- 3 What birders are to see a lifer
- 4 _____ Goshawk, it was seen in Feb and March last year at Jones Beach go try for it this year!
- 6 One resides at 83 Dune Rd, go to 93 for the Clapper Rail
- 9 See 7 Across, the city where this team plays
- 12 _____ Warbler, or a cookie or a photo
- 13 2013 and '14 visitor to Jones Beach, 2016, too?
- 15 _____ - _____ Sparrow, a snow bird
- 16 Greater or Lesser
- 18 Don't miss Group for the East End's walk looking for these towards the end of March
- 20 House, Carolina, or Winter
- 22 Tufted but not the Duck
- 24 _____ Grouse
- 26 _____ Loon, not Red-necked
- 28 _____ Sparrow, likes tall vegetation in marshes

Earth Day Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH FROM 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Come and celebrate nature and our lovely planet
at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge.**



There will be

- Guided Bird Walks by ELIAS volunteers
- Live animal presentations
- Crafts for kids
- Environmental exhibitors

- Self-guided kayaking and canoeing on Old Ice Pond

A great day for all ages!

A schedule of events will be posted on QuogueWildlifeRefuge.org

No reservations necessary. Rain or shine.

This celebration is offered by Eastern Long Island Audubon Society,
Westhampton Beach Earth Day, & Quogue Wildlife Refuge.

Oystercatcher Farm D/B/A **THE FARMERS MARKET FARM STAND**



Proprietors: John and Patricia Carson

76 Montauk Highway, Westhampton, NY 11978 • 631.375.0612 • just west of Buoy One Restaurant

Featuring Blue Duck Bakery Breads & Pies

**And the finest-fresh seasonal local produce — including our own hand-pressed lemonade,
fruit jams, raw honey, maple syrup, chowder, fruit and savory tarts.**

The 68th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association

Bob Adamo

The 68th Annual Meeting (A/M) of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, convened in Albany this past October 2-4, with 165 state-wide attendees enjoying a weekend full of facts, fun and field trips.

You knew right from the start at Friday's registration, that this convention was going to be special! Along with the usual hand-outs, i.e. name tags, activity schedules, etc., each participant was presented with a "spiffy" baseball-style hat, with the NYSOA logo on it. As far as I can remember, this is the first time a gift of this stature has been included in the welcoming packet! It is hoped by NYSOA's Marketing & Publicity Committee, chaired by Tim Baird, this highly visible item will help pique interest in our organization, which, in turn, might lead to an increase in membership.

There were several activities available on Friday afternoon for folks who arrived early enough. In addition to the field trips offered, behind the scenes tours of the NYS Museum's ornithology labs and bird collections were open to all attending the A/M. This opportunity was due mainly because Dr. Jeremy Kirchman, while being a NYSOA member, is also Curator of the Museum's Ornithology Collection.

The evening's reception, followed by six

bird-related workshops, was also held at the museum, with the food and subsequent presentations all being first-rate!

The six workshops were held in two groups of three, with each group starting at different times and running 50 minutes. This enabled the attendees to fully attend at least two of the workshops. The first group consisted of Tom Salo's Golden Eagle Research in Upstate N.Y., Richard and Cyndy Thachuck's Volunteering: birding on a shoestring budget and Marty Teumim's Bird-friendly gardening. The second group featured Kevin McGowan's Parsing plovers and separating sandpipers: tips for shore-bird ID, Richard Guthrie and Ian Davies' eBird demystified and Corey Finger's Becoming a birder in NY. I attended the first listing in each group and was able to glean good information from both! Tom Salo is Co-Compiler (along with Andy Mason) of the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch, which posts the highest number of migrating Golden Eagles in N.Y.S. each year. He also tracks over-wintering Golden Eagles, through the use of deer carcasses acting as baited wildlife cameras to record their presence. He shared one amusing outcome of these endeavors when his son sent photos to a few of his friends depicting a number of Golden Eagles on a deer carcass, under a caption that read...take a look at my Dad's bird feeders!

There were a total of 9 field trips offered

by our hosts throughout the weekend, plus an additional 4 write-ups of nearby birding locations which could be visited at any time, including on the way home. Among the former was the trip to Vischer Ferry Nature and Historical Preserve, which I'm sharing now because it holds fond memories of a prior visit, during a previous A/M, when we found a gorgeous Philadelphia Vireo, in beautiful habitat, while in the company of Gail Seamans, a seasoned birder from western N.Y...Alden, I believe. "This 600-acre preserve on the Mohawk River in the Town of Clifton Park is the site of the Town's first settlement and it includes the remains of the original Erie Canal. The old towpaths provide excellent views into an extensive wetland ecosystem. More than 230 species have been seen at this Important Bird Area (IBA) and the late migrating waterfowl and warblers (and yes, philly vireos) would be the main interest".

Saturday morning's business meeting started with Joan Collins (our Current President) taking the roll-call. After approval of the minutes from last year's A/M, the President's Report was given by Kathy Schneider. Her report was built upon NYSOA's stated "Objectives" 1) Documenting the Ornithology of NYS. 2) Fostering an Interest and Appreciation of Birds. 3) Protecting Birds and Their Habitats.

"Home of the 99 cent Suet Cake"



Wild Bird * Garden Center *
Plants * Pet * Farm & Feed
Husqvarna Power Equipment Sales & Service

Feathered Friend & Wild Delight Bird Seed
Bird Feeders, Houses & Accessories
Ask about our Squirrel Resistant Feeders

DROLL YANKEES
The World's Best Bird Feeders®. Since 1969
** Authorized Service Center

1122 Osborn Ave., Riverhead
631-727-3100

www.talmagefarm.com

While commenting on 2 of our publications, *The Kingbird* and the *Check-list of Birds of N.Y.S.*, Kathy mentioned the establishment of a new *Kingbird* position, that of Production Editor, and filled by Pat Lindsay, to help the Editor with proof reading, as well as liaison with the printer and the U.S. Postal Service.

She then discussed the board's concern re: the vacancies among the 10 Regional Editor positions. These are extremely important jobs, necessary to insure the accuracy of the bird sightings we document and publish.

NYSOA continues to organize a yearly, statewide Waterfowl Count, which is held during the month of January, with the results published in *The Kingbird*.

In 2015 we printed a new official Checklist of Birds of NYS, which includes the 6 new species that were accepted by our NYS Avian Records Committee (NYS-ARC). This list also reflects the taxonomic changes dictated by the American Ornithological Union (AOU).

NYSOA also participated in the "kick-off" meeting for the *Third Breeding Bird Atlas for NYS* scheduled to begin in 2020. I can attest to the importance of this project, as well as the satisfaction and fun one can derive from volunteering to be part of this worthy undertaking.

Another of NYSOA's publications, *NY-Birders*, (always chock full of bird-related articles) is now being enjoyed via email by approximately one-third of our membership, which in turn saves time and money for our association, while saving natural resources for the general good. A popular feature in this newsletter is the yearly County Listing competition, with 114 participants now taking part. I have been on-board since its inception, and am very proud to have recently reached the 400 plateau (i.e. number of bird species seen in NYS.)

Kathy Schneider then spoke of NYSOA's intention to host at least one field trip a year, hoping to help promote growth in our membership. The May '15 outing to the Intervale Lowlands in Lake Placid drew a formidable total of 22 people - yesssssss!

The NYS Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) is another of NYSOA's successful attempts "to foster an interest and

appreciation of birds". This intrepid group (discussed fully later in this article) tries to have a field trip each and every month of the year! A benchmark was set this year, when Greg Lawrence became a Director on NYSOA's Board, after first starting in our organization as a Youth Member in the NYSYBC. A current NYSYBC member also was honored by being named recipient of the Lillian C Stoner Award, which among other pluses, enables the honoree to attend this year's A/M as a guest.

The following notes describe most, but not all, of the remaining subjects discussed at the business, aka the delegates, meeting. While encouraging the young as our future members and naturalists, Kathy stressed the need to continually grow our adult contingent. Citing our Facebook page, refined administrative policies and guidelines, and the "great hat giveaway" as

NYSOA continues to be involved with the Plum Island Coalition, striving to keep this Important Bird Area (IBA) protected, rather than being developed.

examples of this strategy, she urged our members to let all prospective newcomers know that we are the only state-wide organization dedicated solely to the birds and birders of NYS.

Kathy then spoke of some of the efforts of our Conservation Committee during the past year, namely: support for the Birders Coalition for Gateway, working to influence the restoration of West Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; make specific suggestions to improve the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) State Wildlife Action Plan, and urged the NYS-DEC to use the environmental review process to protect eagles from disturbance when they are most vulnerable and to begin to educate the public on alternatives to lead ammunition; In conjunction with this, NYSOA approved a member organization grant to

the Delaware-Otsego Audubon to create and distribute educational materials about alternatives to lead ammunition.

Kathy concluded by expressing thanks to Olana, the NYS-DEC, the Montezuma Audubon Center and Beaver Lake Nature Center for allowing us to use their facilities without charge for our quarterly board meetings. She also acknowledged the financial gifts to our club honoring both Emanuel (Manny) Levine and Jerry Lazarczk, members who have passed recently.

Next on the agenda, we learned of our healthy financial status, provided by Treasurer, Andy Mason.

We then voted to accept the Seatuck Environmental Association as a new member club, thereby maintaining the number of clubs at 42, following the non-renewal of the Tioga Bird Club.

Pat Aiken then put forth the sizes of the remaining member categories: Student, 8; Individual, 330; Family, 77; Contributing, 52; Kingbird Club, 19, in addition to Life Members, 42.

Conservation Committee Chair Andy Mason described the areas of concern they were involved in this past year. Among them were three ongoing issues taking place on Long Island. First, we are still involved in the EPCAL Coalition monitoring the development of this large grassland habitat. Secondly, we continue to be involved with the Plum Island Coalition, striving to keep this Important Bird Area (IBA) protected, rather than being developed. To this end, I recently represented NYSOA at an Assembly Committee Meeting on Environmental Conservation held at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) in Brentwood, chaired by Assemblyman Steve Englebright, at which I presented NYSOA's position.

Lastly, NYSOA's continued involvement in the future management plans for the Gateway National Recreational Area, including correcting the high water levels experienced at JBWR's East Pond this past summer.

Carena Pooth, who has been a "champion" for the NYSYBC from its inception, and its current Adult Chair (liaison to NYSOA's board) then proceeded to report on the clubs history and growth from 2008 to the present. Founded as

a result of the efforts of Hope Batcheller (age 14, at the time) in petitioning NYSOA's board to replicate the founding of a young birders club by an Ohio bird club, which she had recently visited. Hope presented this opportunity first at an A/M, and then was invited by the board (which, I was a member of, at that time) to make a similar presentation ...and boy, was she right! Starting with 11 youth, 13 supporting adults and 7 partner organizations, those numbers have increased dramatically, along with the age requirements for the youth category expanding to 10-19. While marking its 7th anniversary recently, the YBC celebrated increases in all of its categories, including (since 2012) the additional category of Supporting Adult Student (which is comprised of alumni over 19 years of age. It now stands at 54 youth members, 32 supporting adult (regular), 8 supporting adults (student) and 22 partner organizations, with ELIAS being part of this group.

Each year at the Annual Meeting, a new slate of officers is voted in, while the directors run for 2 year terms, which are staggered. This year's results are:

President	Joan Collins
Vice President	Seth Ausubel
Recording Secretary	Mary Beth Warburton
Treasurer	Andy Mason

The Directors are:

Peter Capainolo
Dawn O'Neil
Carena Pooth
Kathryn Schneider.

The 2015-2016 Auditing Committee was then elected. They are John Cairns (Chair), Irving Cantor and Stephen Hang.

Next to be elected was the Nominating Committee, consisting of Bob Adamo (Chair), Janet Allison and Dominic Sherony.

Finally, Bill Ostrander announced that the 2016 Annual Meeting will be held in Elmira on September 9-11, and hosted by the Chemung County Bird Club!

During the lunch break, a talk on alternatives to lead ammunition was held, with interested people being encouraged to bring their lunch.

The eight paper sessions held my attention throughout the afternoon, and left me wanting more! They were:

1) Timing of the Fall Migration of Selected Warbler and Sparrow Species in Albany County, NY - David L. Martin

2) Unraveling the Antagonistic Co-evolution of Birds and their Parasites - Christopher Harbison, Siena College

3) Using First-recorded/First-arrival Data for Assessing Climate Change: A Cautionary Tale - Daniel Bolster, Christopher Klee, Anna Valentine, and Donald A. McCrimmon, McDivitt Center for the Study of Environmental Change, Le Moyne College

4) Enhancement of Spruce Grouse (*Falci-pennis canadensis*) Habitat and Supplementation of Populations in New York - John Ozard and Angie Ross

5) Attitudinal Range Shifts of Adirondack Birds over the Past Forty Years - Jeremy J. Kirchman and Alison E. Van Keuren, New York State Museum

6) Niche Differences between the Breeding Habitats of Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrush - Alyssa FitzGerald, State University of New York at Albany, and New York State Museum, Albany

7) Estimating Golden Eagle Populations Wintering in Delaware, Otsego, and Madison Counties, New York - Bernadette Rigley, and Amy C. Quinn, State University of New York at Cobleskill

8) Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons - Nina Schoch, Martha Van der Voort, and Rory Keating, Biodiversity Research Institute's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation

The reception prior to the banquet was spent greeting old friends and making new ones. Bird reports from the day's field trips were exchanged, with the finger food and then the dinner, along with a cash-bar that kept me supplied with a local brewery's delicious apricot ale, made for a most delightful social event! During dinner, raffle prize winners were called up to take possession of the products of their good fortune, and toward the end of dinner NYSOA's awards were given out. As mentioned previously, Joe Hernandez was this year's recipient of the Lillian S. Stoner Award. Joe is a member of the NYSYBC and was nominated by them. The award enables students to attend our

Annual Meeting as guests. This year three Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to people who provided excellent hospitality toward the birders who visited their property in search of the rare bird they were hosting.

Until this year the John J. Elliot Award was given to the author of the article judged to be the best article published in *The Kingbird* that year. This year, in recognition of the huge contributions made by Manny Levine as the longtime editor of *The Kingbird*, the award's name was changed to the Emanuel Levine Memorial Award. The first winners, under its new name, are Guy A. Baldassare and Joshua Stiller, for their article "Habitat use and Migration Chronology of Waterfowl on the Upper Hudson River, New York".

The evening's festivities were then topped off with the introduction of the banquet speaker, renowned ornithologist and author, Jon Dunn.

JON DUNN has been called "a major force in North American birding." You may have seen his name as Chief Consultant/Editor for all six editions of the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. He is also the co-writer and host of the two-video set *Large and Small Gulls of North America*, as well as co-author (with Kimball Garrett) of *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* and the *Peterson Field Guide to Warblers*.

As a member of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union and the ABA Checklist Committee, he had a role in our NYS Checklist. In addition, he has been a birding tour guide for more than 30 years.

All of this experience made Jon the perfect speaker at our banquet dinner. The Wood Warblers of North America was the main topic of his presentation covering distribution, migration routes to and from the neo-tropics, as well as explaining some of the most challenging warbler ID. 🐦

The **OSPREY**

Published by
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 206
East Quogue, NY 11942-0206

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3
Center Moriches, NY
11934

Dated Material

Address Service Requested

Please check the date on your label.

All memberships are now renewable in January. Please renew your membership to keep our club strong.

ELIAS Officers & Directors

President:

Byron Young 631-821-9623

Vice President & Field Trips:

Eileen Schwinn 631-728-8342

Recording Secretary:

Chris Schmitt 631-727-2860

Corresponding Secretary:

Gigi Spates 631-765-1436

Treasurer: Tom Moran 631-849-4434

Board of Directors:

Bob Adamo 631-369-1958

Ridgie Barnett 631-288-3628

MaryLaura Lamont

John McNeil 631-281-2623

Sally Newbert 631-281-6008

Suzi Stewart 516-443-4906

Evelyn Voulgarelis 631-727-0417

Committees/Projects

Membership & Feeder Stats:

John McNeil 631-281-2623

Field Trips: Eileen Schwinn 631-728-8342

Program Chair and Nature Chat Open

Liaison - Kaler's Pond Audubon Center:

Alfred Scherzer 631-728-2898

Hospitality: Ridgie Barnett 631-288-3628

Conservation & Bluebird Restoration:

Gigi Spates 631-765-1436

Education: Evelyn Voulgarelis 631-727-0417

and Suzi Stewart 516-443-4906

Webmaster: Annette Oliveira 631-833-4451

Newsletter Editor & Publicity:

Sally Newbert 631-281-6008

eliasosprey@optonline.net

Chapter Renewal & Membership

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 updates and reminders of programs and trips including notices of any program changes or cancellations due to weather. This list is not shared.

Make check payable to: **Eastern Long Island Audubon Society**

and mail to: ELIAS Membership,
PO Box 206,
East Quogue, NY 11942-0206

EASTERN LONG ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

From the Barrens to the Bays

Serving Eastern Brookhaven, Western Riverhead & The Hamptons

www.easternlongislandaudubonsociety.org