



THE OSPREY

July/ August 2016 — Vol. XLI, No. 4

What do Quogue Wildlife Refuge, William Floyd Estate, Hunters Garden, Hallock State Park, Terrell River County Park, North Fork County Park, Rocky Point DEC and the South Fork Natural History Museum have in common?

ELIAS went looking for warblers in each one! Beginning on Sunday, May 1 at **Quogue Wildlife Refuge**, the day after Earth Day a few people rallied and sought those elusive warblers. Because of the weather the walk was cut a bit short, but were able to see the Great Horned owlets near the creek, and the mother (or father) flew over us as we were coming out of the trail. Always a treat to encounter an owl in the woods.

It had not warmed up by the time we got to **William Floyd Estate** on May 7th. Many students from East Islip joined the group as we encountered at least 16 species of birds including a nice look at a Blue-winged Warbler and Eastern Blue Birds. I think the kids may have been more taken with the flock of Turkeys we met.

Onto **Hunters Garden** off Route 51, where in 2 visits we had, probably our best sightings. Finally a touch of warmth and the woods were filled with birdsong. The loud and insistent carrying on of the Ovenbird, screaming *Teacher, Teacher* and the omnipresent Towhees. telling everyone to *drink your teaaaa*. Then near the end of the

Continued on page 4

At Hunters Garden, watching the Cerulean Warbler.



EILEEN SCHWINN

RIVERHEAD

YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE

An Editorial by Sally Newbert

On Saturday May 18 joined by some birding buddies I went to Arshamomaque Preserve. A Virginia Rail had been reported, it would be a life bird for me. and some of the others. We walked through the various habitats, woods and marsh some on boardwalks until we reached the observation tower. There we were serenaded by a Swamp Sparrow who sang from a nearby snag. There were two Osprey nests on the pond, and quite a bit of action from them. Thank goodness we sat for a while and enjoyed the view of the pond. Then we heard it, a constant “kiddick, kiddick”. And, there was the little rail. It is a chicken-like bird and proceeded to make its peculiar noise as it ran in a rather scattered fashion back and forth in the marsh right around and under the tower. By the way, if you have never visited the Preserve on Chapel Lane in Greenport it is worth a visit.

On the way home, so pleased we had achieved our goal and found the Virginia Rail, we stopped by EPCAL. *The Osprey* has run articles about this area before, the history, the rare birds found there, the cars after Sandy, the hawks and the Short Eared Owls that hunt there. This time we found tents, bikes, bikers and a parking lot on the runway that looked like it could have been a scene taken from Jones Beach. The festivities included a stage from the Town of Riverhead, a few rock bands and several businesses promoting themselves. All this was part of a festival to raise money for diabetes.

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The President's Corner

Case Number 16-102

Byron Young

While conducting my river herring monitoring work this spring on the Peconic River I encountered an injured Osprey at the location where the herring congregate below Woodhull Dam. This is a spot that attracts the local Osprey crowd looking to catch an early spring fresh fish dinner. For those of you who have not visited this site, it is located across County Road 51 from the Suffolk County Offices. The pool where the river herring congregate is not very large maybe 50 feet long by 25 feet wide and five feet deep at the center of the pool. The river herring looking to migrate upstream to Wildwood Lake are blocked by Woodhull Dam, thus become relatively easy targets for hungry Osprey. To complicate matters the area around the pool is heavily wooded and not the habitat that Osprey are comfortable around.

The river herring usually begin to arrive in early March ahead of the hungry Osprey. Usually my first Osprey of the season is at Woodhull Dam perched in the Choke Cherry tree over the pool looking for an unsuspecting river herring. On April 13th when I showed up to collect river herring for biological data I found a Black Crowned Night Heron perched in a tree over the pool and an Osprey sitting on the small grassy island in the pool. My first reaction was that these birds were confused and had switched places.


Unfortunately, I discovered that the Osprey was injured and could not fly. I suspect that the bird hit a branch diving for a herring in the pool. My first reaction was to attempt to capture the bird myself and get it to the Wildlife Rescue folks. I had most of the necessary tools in my car with which to capture the bird but I lacked the necessary experience. After thinking this over for a bit and looking at the impressive set of talons, I decided I would leave the capture to the volunteers at the Hampton Bays Wildlife Rescue center with the proper equipment and experience. A call to the rescue center mobilized a volunteer from Center Moriches who had to wait until school got out around 3:00

pm. The bird was in no apparent danger so the rescue could wait.

I arrived about five minutes late to see the successful rescue of the bird. The volunteer had to wade across the shallow edge of the pool to reach the island and using a blanket as a shield/blind approached the bird. When close enough he dropped the blanket over the bird. He then cradled the bird in the blanket and placed it in a large transport tote with holes drilled into the sides for air circulation. The bird was then transported to the Hampton Bays Rescue Center.

Once there the staff examined the bird. Upon first examination they thought that the bird had only muscle damage. However a second set of x-rays revealed a break in the wing near the shoulder. I have

stopped by several times with fresh fish for this bird and the other fish eating birds that the center has under their care.

I would like to report that all is well with this Osprey but on my last visit on May 31st with fresh fish I was informed that the bird was suffering from an infection around the wounded wing and was not doing very well. It was still eating but would require further intensive care. Ideally, this bird will recover and be returned to the wild. However, if the wing does not heal properly the bird will be stabilized and then a proper home will be found probably in Florida where it can survive. Only time will tell at this point. The story of case number 16-102 continues, I will provide additional details as they become available. 

CALENDAR 2017

We just love doing a yearly calendar with members photos!

This will be the third year we have published it.

The deadline to submit your best photo(s) is September 1.

Here are the rules:

- 1. Photo must be taken on the East End on Long Island.**
- 2. You must be a member.**

Pretty simple rules.

Please send photos to:

eliasosprey@optonline.net

**Save the date
for the ANNUAL DINNER
Wednesday, October 19 at 6 pm**

ELIAS Meetings

Monday, July 11, 2016, meeting to begin at 7:00 pm

Ornithological Fieldwork in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

By Paul Sweet



The island of New Guinea is home to over 700 species of birds—that is, 700 and still counting. In the fall of 2014 Paul Sweet joined a team of vertebrate specialists from the American Museum of Natural History on an expedition to the highlands of Papua New Guinea—the nation that occupies the eastern half of the island. The highlands are one of the most remote areas in the world. The expedition was in search of new specimens and new species. Sweet will talk about the adventures of fieldwork and discuss some of the expedition's discoveries.



Paul Sweet is the collections manager in the Ornithology Department of The American Museum of Natural History in NYC. He was born in Bristol, England and has been interested in birds for as long as he can remember. After completing a degree in zoology at the University of Liverpool, he traveled widely in Asia and the Americas before working at the Raffles Museum in Singapore. In 1991 he moved to New York City to work at the American Museum of Natural History.

Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:15 pm

Double Feature Night: The *Oh My God Bird!*

This program will be a double feature. First, **Jay Kuhlman**, a long-time member of ELIAS, trip leader for ELIAS and a veterinarian will join us to talk about his trip to the epicenter of the hunt for the Woodpecker. He went to Arkansas right after the first reports came in that the bird had been sighted. Could it be true? Come and ask him all your questions. Is it possible there is a small population living deep in the impenetrable Arkansas swamp?



Then will be showing the movie *Ghost Bird*. This documentary film is about the giant woodpecker, a small town in Arkansas that was hoping to reverse its misfortunes, and the tireless odyssey of the bird-watchers

and scientists searching for the Holy Grail of birds, the elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Meetings take place at Quogue Wildlife Refuge, 3 Old Country Rd., Quogue, NY.

Summer Bird Walks

Saturday, July 23, 2016 – 7:30 am

Dune Road Drive

Meet at the Shinnecock Inlet, near the communication tower. Join us in our annual Stop and Look along Dune Road, from Hampton Bays (Shinnecock Inlet) to the Post Ave. Bridge (Quogue), with stops along the way. We will hopefully see some lingering and nesting shorebirds, as well as some early migrants heading south. Rain or shine – only a lightning storm will cause cancellation! Bring bug spray, and sun screen – Temporary Town of Southampton Parking Permits for the trip will be available to non-Southampton Town Residents for the trip. Binoculars are necessary, and scopes are helpful. For info, please contact Eileen Schwinn, the Trip Leader, by email: beachmed@optonline.net or call 516-662-7751 the day of the trip.

Saturday, August 13, 2016 – 8:00 am

The Isle of Cupsogue

Get to Cupsogue before 8:00 am and it's FREE PARKING! The trip to the shoreline will begin around 8:15 am. We will meet at the western end of the parking lot. Low tide for that day is 11:22 am, so we will take a comfortable walk of about 1 mile to the crossable mud flats, where we will see south-bound migrating shorebirds, and some summer residents as well. Bring sunscreen, water, and sand-walking/water-walking foot ware – or go barefoot! The crossing is mushy but not harsh on the feet. For more information, please contact Eileen Schwinn, the Trip Leader (various other ELIAS Members/Directors will also be in attendance!) by email: beachmed@optonline.net or call 516-662-7751. Heavy rain or severe weather conditions (high wind or lightning) will cancel this trip. Binoculars are necessary, and scopes are helpful.



At Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Great Horned Owls were nesting across the road.



At The William Floyd Estate, a group from East Islip High School joined the group. The Turkeys seemed to catch their imaginations.

Continued from page 1

walk, a new buzzy call, ending in a longer buzz. Eileen describes “the blue-back, with two wing bars, white throated, white chest with dark neckline, white belly and dark flank-stripped bird. A male Cerulean Warbler was heard and observed for at least 10 minutes, along the access road to the water tower. The bird was seen high in a flowering oak tree.”

Other birds seen included Scarlet Tanagers, Bay-breasted Warbler, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard – all on the water tower access road. A Solitary Sandpiper made a brief stop by a large muddy puddle in the main clearing. the clearing.

Hallock State Park on May 14, led by MaryLaura Lamont added a few more warblers to our spring sightings including a Black and White, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Prairie Warbler and Black-throated Blue (seen by some). The construction has started on a new parking lot for the park and a new nature center which will allow access without going through the Farm Museum. It was sad to see all the construction for the upper parking lot and remembering the habitat that was there, but hopefully the improved access will be worth it.

Our second visit to **Hunters Garden** on May 15, led by Eileen Schwinn, yielded quite a few interesting warblers, including everyone’s favorite, a Blackburnian

Warbler. Magnolia and Bay-breasted Warbler were added to the list.

The weather turned rather cold and rainy for our walk to the **North Fork Preserve**, but with persistence at least 12 species were spotted, including a White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged warbler and a few Yellow-warblers.

The last spring walk went to **The South Fork Natural History Museum** in Bridgehampton, led by Eric Salzman on Saturday, June 4. This account is from Eric’s Blog:

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 – This morning’s bird walk was in the Vineyard Field back of the South Fork Natural History Museum (SoFo) and was a joint effort by the Museum with ELIAS (Eastern LI Audubon Society). Most (if not all) of the birds were local breeders. This field has been known as one of the best places on Eastern LI to see and hear the spectacular Indigo Bunting (always uncommon on ELL) and walks in recent years have noted numbers of the gorgeous males and a few females (harder to see since they are sitting on the nests while the males call and show off). This morning there was only one (or possibly two) singing males but at least most people got good looks.

Variations of the color blue seem to be the theme of these walks. One of the bluebird boxes is actually occupied by a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (easy to see as they perch on their nest box). Most

of the other boxes are occupied by Tree Swallows, a native bird that is steely blue above and snow white below. Then there’s always the Blue Jays. A Blue Grosbeak was recently reported from this area but we did not see it and I don’t think we heard it either (a similar song, heard on two occasions, was – to my ears – that of the Warbling Vireo).

The area around the museum is a good place to see the Orchard Oriole as well as the Baltimore. And we heard (but did not see) at least two Warbling Vireos (along with a Red-eyed Vireo). Both the Orchard and the Warbling are comeback birds in our area, now increasing after a long period when they dropped out of sight. (I should add that there is a possibility that one or both of these Warbling Vireo songs was actually a Blue Grosbeak; the songs are quite similar and the song of the Grosbeak, only recently arrived on Long Island from the south, is not something I’m overly familiar with.)

Four warbler species are nesting in the field: Yellow, Common Yellowthroat, Blue-winged Warbler and Prairie. Two raptors flew overhead: Red-tailed Hawk and Osprey (which refuses to nest on the nice Osprey platform erected by SoFo for the express purpose of attracting nesting Osprey). Three flycatchers were seen: E. Kingbird, E. Phoebe and Great Crested Flycatcher.

In addition to the Purple Martin colony, the many Tree Swallows and a few Barn



(Top) At South Fork Museum of Natural History Eric Salzman led the join walk and found a beautiful singing Indigo Bunting.

A rainy day did not dampen the spirits of some birders at North Fork Preserve

Swallows, there was a Chimney Swift twittering high above (not a swallow but also feeding on flying insects).

Also seen and heard: Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Wren, and Mourning Dove.

If you would like to receive Eric's Blog about East End birds, please send him an email at ericSalzman9@gmail.com. 🐦

Photos and text compiled by Sally Newbert



At Hunters Garden where we had some of our best warbler sightings of season.

The Southern Pine Borer

Larry Penny

A week ago I was examining the spread of the southern pine borer through the eastern pine barrens. The damage to pitch pines is especially prevalent on NYS 24 where it goes north from the Sunrise Highway. It's moving north through Flanders towards Riverhead. Ironically, in that woods which well on its way to becoming a graveyard, as needless pitch pines join with the still-standing leafless and limbless hulks of dead oaks killed in the last gypsy moth invasion at the start of the new millennium.

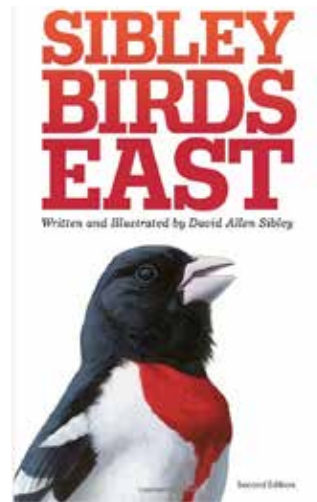
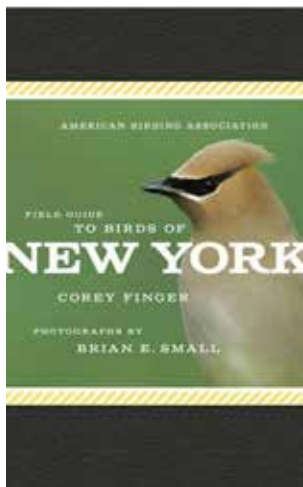
What was even more disparaging was a scene of despair on the west side of County Road 31 that runs by Gabreski Airport in Westhampton where New York State's only dwarf pitch pine hundreds of years old is beginning to succumb to that little beetles ravages. From the looks of the unsightly incursion glaring out at the passersby, that long-standing copse that George Washington once described as "ill-thriven" may be on its way out.

The experience made me think of the 24-acre study of the birds in that elfish forest that the late Gil Raynor and his

colleagues undertook in the early 1970s and published as part of a series of such local bird censuses and John Cryan's efforts to that land from development as the Long Island Pine Barren Society was in its beginning stages.

It was very depressing, to say the least. On the way back to Sag Harbor I stopped to see if the Ravens were still nesting in the Hampton Bays Water Company's water tower there one the south side of the LIRR's track. I could see any while parked near it. I played Raven calls from my android phone, no response. I went around to the south side of the water tower and looked anew. Nothing. I played the Ravens' caws and fledglings' calls, no response. I better stop, I thought, I was beginning to disturb the neighborhood.

Then, as I was about to pull away, Raven calls, caws and fledgling calls, came from the south and in an instant four ravens, two of which must have just fledged, flew over my car about 70 feet high and headed towards the tower. My spirits were elevated. I drove home in a better mood. 🐦



Two Bird Guides

One New York State, One East Coast

Eileen Schwinn

Recently, two new birding field guides have hit the Bird Book Shelf. One, brand-new and the other, an update of the old standard.

Something New

The American Birding Association had come up with the idea of publishing Field Guides, personalizing the most-likely-to-be-seen birds, on a State by State basis. The more “birdy” States – Texas, Florida, California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey – have already been published, and now New York can be added to that list!

Queens County’s own Corey Finger, is the author, and Brian Small provided nearly all the photos of the 285 species most birders are likely to see within the New York State. (ELIAS also had the pleasure of having Corey Finger as our Guest Speaker recently). Titled, *Field Guide to Birds of New York*, the book is aimed at the beginning to intermediate birder. The book provides an excellent introductory chapter, with not only bird “parts” – nicely shown with photographs of actual birds – but a good map and month by month, directory of where to look for what. This is a rather unique feature and extremely useful for a state guide. The introduction is one of the best I’ve read, making learning what you need to know, written clearly, and, dare I say, FUN!

Many local Long Island locations are covered and shown. The photographs of

individual species show not only the male and female birds, but various molts when appropriate. Although not an all inclusive guide – occasionally seen, rare birds are not included (Barrow’s Golden-eye, for example) – the guide is a wonderful way to introduce someone to birding here at home, and it makes a nice addition to any birding library. At almost 350 pages, not much is missing from this well put together addition to the ABA Field Guide Series.

Something Updated

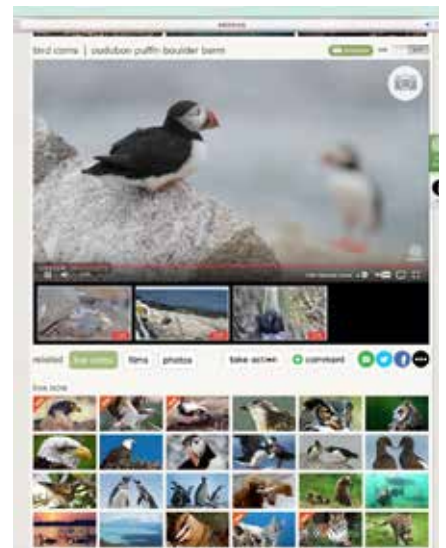
Ten years after purchase, my well-used, notated, and, sadly, broken-binding *Sibley Birds East* is in need of replacement. Well, just in time, a new Second Edition of the take-along, stick it in your big pocket or under your belt, birders “bible”, has been re-issued!

Showing almost 700 species, with regional maps, revised and expanded text and habitat information, the new addition now is in line with the “new” taxonomic order. The illustrations are sharp and clear, and reflect the color of the birds shown with extreme accuracy. David Sibley has really offered the one Must-Have field guide for any birder, anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains – beginning, intermediate or hard-core. Those familiar with the first edition will be pleased, and the birder ready to venture out to parts unknown will value this field guide. As for me, this new edition will hopefully provide a long and happy, well-used life, going everywhere my binoculars go! 🦅

EXPLORE.ORG

Without leaving the comfort of your easy chair, or desk, you can visit nesting Puffins in Maine, Great Horned Owls in Missoula, MT, or Guillemots on Seal Island, ME. These are just a few of your choices on explore.org.

There are many cameras live that go from Walrus to kittens to puppies or jellyfish.



ELIAS is now using Constant Contact, an email notification service, to send notices about meetings and walks. An email will go out few days before the event.

As renewals come in we will add your email to our list, if it is included with your renewal.

If you have not been added and would like to be, please send an email to eliasopsprey@optonline.net.

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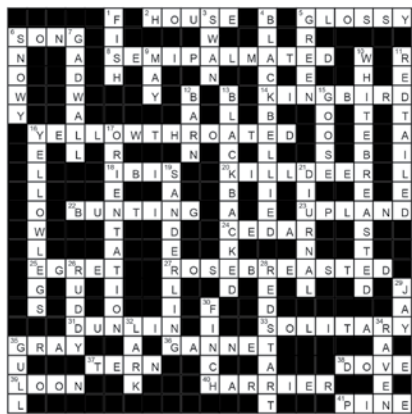
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Eastport, NY 11941

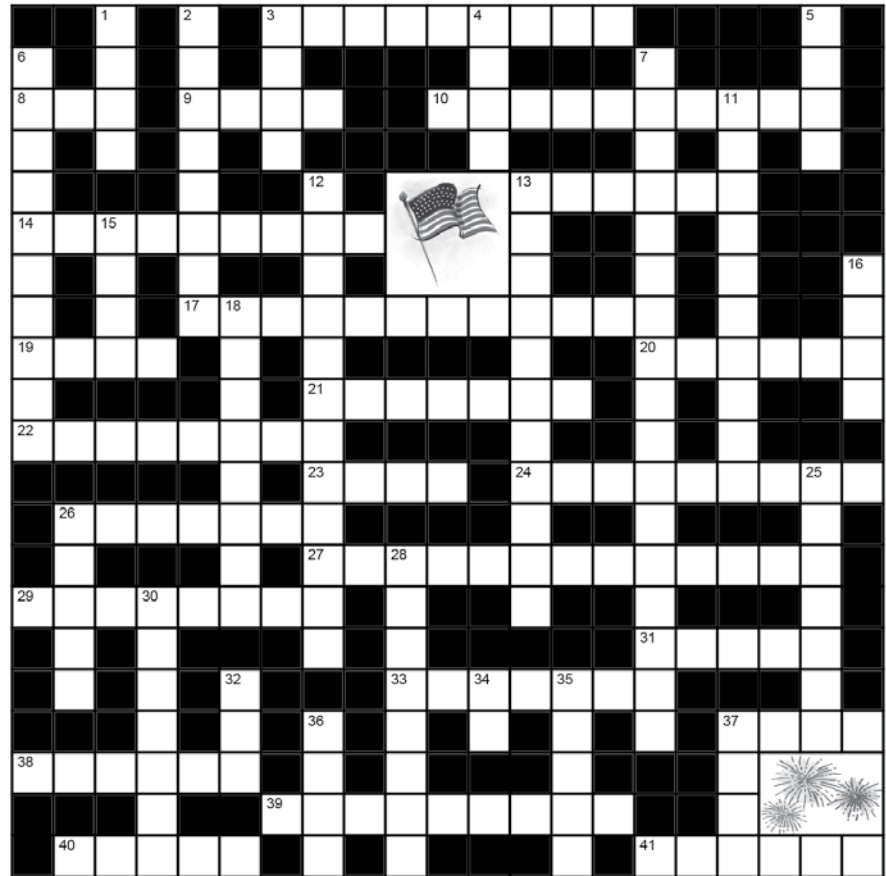
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Answers to last issue's puzzle Spring into Summer by Tom Moran



Yay Summer! Tom Moran



Across

- 3 American _____, bright gold and black with a black cap
- 8 Female domestic fowl
- 9 Sora, rails may walk on these (singular)
- 10 Small bird, short tail, 2 words
- 13 _____ River, when the water freezes a good place to look for eagles near Croton on the ...
- 14 _____ hyphenated 2 words, with 23 Across
- 17 _____ Warbler, (hyphenated 2 words)
- 19 _____ Swallow
- 20 Peregrine _____
- 21 Cedar or Bohemian
- 22 American _____, black and orange
- 23 See 14 Across
- 24 American _____, not a Mallard (2 words)
- 26 Northern _____ or Marsh Hawk
- 27 American _____, shore bird with a ridiculous orange bill
- 29 _____ Rail
- 31 _____ Wren or sparrow
- 33 _____ Tern, seen rarely
- 37 _____ Sayville Golf Course sometimes has 18 Down in the ponds
- 38 With, not Jim Beam or Jack Daniels
- 39 _____ Grebe or Phalarope, I successfully?! misidentified this grebe as an Eared, and ELIAS still lets me be a member!
- 40 _____ Cormorant or Egret
- 41 Marbled _____, not Hudsonian

Down

- 1 _____ Road, good place to see shorebirds
- 2 _____ Sandpiper, not Spotted
- 3 With 11 Down _____
- 4 Glossy _____
- 5 Old Ice _____, at Quogue Wildlife Refuge
- 6 Sooty or Greater _____ Cory's were seen off the south shore this June (singular)
- 7 Great _____
- 11 With 3 Down, the smaller of our common 3 types (2 words, hyphenated)
- 12 Common _____ not actually a warbler, wears a disguise
- 13 Ruby-throated or maybe even a Rufous
- 15 Mourning _____
- 16 _____ Warbler, nests at Quogue
- 18 _____ Wigeon, sometimes found at 37 Across
- 25 _____ River, Eagles and Osprey can be seen there, ok, ok, the second vowel should be an a...I decided to use the opera version of the spelling?!
- 26 _____ Woodpecker, no three dots in the tail feathers
- 28 Eurasian _____ introduced in North America as an attempt to bring birds mentioned in works by William Shakespeare
- 30 Boat-tailed or common _____
- 32 Blue or upstate Gray
- 34 Connetquot River ____ (abbreviation)
- 35 _____ Flycatcher, not Willow
- 36 _____ Goose, not Absolut
- 37 _____ with 38 across

“Oilbirds, Bearded Bellbirds and a Beetle For All Time”

Carl Starace

Oilbirds, (*Steatornis Caripensis*), are just different. For one, they navigate in pitch black by echolocation just as bats do. No other bird in the world does so. They have a rather long body length of 17 to 19 inches, about the size of a Northern Harrier and wingspan slightly longer than a Broad-winged Hawk. Oilbirds move their bills together to create audible clicks which serve it well both in the daytime caves they inhabit and in the darkest of nights. These clicks are emitted at a stunning 250 a second which allows them to fly at high speeds even within the confines of a cave, (they are the world's only cave dwelling bird). Trinidad has ten cave dwelling colonies, but the largest known colony is in a national park near Caripe, Venezuela, which has 10 to 18 thousand Oilbirds. Sally Swain and I joined a group of birders on holiday from the United Kingdom on a hike to see these remarkable birds at the Asa Wright Preserve. The sky over the deep seated valley was an azure blue,



The Oilbird is a cave dwelling, nocturnal, fruit eating bird finds its food by echolocation, like a bat.

The air was fresh and still moist from an earth pounding rain that came down just past midnight. A dozen of us with the guide worked our way down a forested hillside accompanied. We were accompanied by the raucous calls of Orange-winged Parrots. A fellow just ahead asked another what his world bird total had reached. He said he'd reached seventy-three hundred species which gave both of us something besides the trailside birds to wonder at. We both knew that only a handful of the worlds birders have reached such a number. Soon Sally was asking the man which place he'd traveled to around the world was a favorite. He immediately replied, "Antarctica. Not because of the birds, but because its like nowhere else." As we closed in on the mouth of the cave we could hear the Oilbirds shrieks and squawkings. Our guide would only take two people at a time within and then only for five minutes. Sally and I walked barely 20 feet when he shone his flashlight just below the closest

ledge. It held a pair of sitting Oilbirds. They are a rich brown with white spotting on their secondaries and wing coverts, (they somewhat resembled a Nightjar). The tails are longish, legs short, with a large hooked bill that has bristles around it. The guide told our group that Oilbirds also have a specialized sense of smell in order to find the large number of fruit and nuts species they take on the wing. They are the worlds only nighttime fruit eating bird. The name Oilbird came from the practice by a former native people, the Chaima of Venezuela who harvested the Oilbirds chicks to be used as food and as a valuable source of fuel for their lanterns. We soon left the spooky sounds of the birds behind and reached an open area perfect for viewing birds on the wing. All our bins were soon on a Plumbeous Kite, its long pointed wings stretched wide, its tail square ended with thin white bands. But soon it wasn't a bird that held our attention and awe, but a long armed beetle. Our guide knew it well. It was a Harlequin Beetle, (*Acocinus Longinus*), not to be confused with the Harlequin Bug that also lives in the tropical regions of the Americas. They are similarly colored, but that's where the resemblance ends. This beetle is so large it cannot be



Harlequin Beetle, the size of a mouse, can hover like a helicopter.




Bearded Bellbirds are fruit eaters with an explosive call.

confused with any other. Close to three inches in length, its forelegs, which bend at the elbow are even longer. Having four additional legs, it has antennae it moves wildly back and fourth that are easily five inches long. This beetle, the size of a mouse, is patterned in a most intriguing design and the colors, the orangey reds and blacks added something. Here, I'll say it. None of us could take our eyes from it. And with all of that attention it would keep its composure for all of five minutes, then it chose to elevate thirty feet and hover helicopter-like with all appendages extended. It then rose another fifteen feet or so, hovered again briefly until it shot for the canopy like it was in the sights of a Merlin. We were not to see that Goliath again, but the following morning Sally and I headed back into the valley in hopes of getting clearer looks at a Bearded Bellbirds.

Bellbirds, like the Oilbirds pluck on the wing many of the fruits of the Neotropical forest albeit in the daytime. At least 32 species of plants have been recorded as food items. The most important are the Lauraceae and the Burseraceae which are very rich in proteins and fats. All the fruit/nut eating birds have a great impact on these forests because they disperse the seeds of so many kinds of trees. And they are dispersing these seeds all year long. Bearded Bellbird males are greyish white with coffee brown heads and back wings. The females and juveniles heads are darker with gray throats that have pale streaks, yellow undersides with dark green streaks. The male has two distinct calls. A loud, absolutely explosive single noted, "bock" given at intervals and a more musical series of notes that are similar to a blacksmith striking his hammer upon an anvil. The much louder, "bock" call has

been called the worlds loudest bird call. The call travels quite the distance. That last morning we easily found them but to see one clearly took lots of maneuvering. I finally felt I had located one some hundred yards off the trail and at a much lower height than was normal. No color or form could I see in that dense stand of leaf tangled trees. Some minutes passed and then it broke into daylight with deep strokes of wing, launching itself straight towards me. Sally saw it clear my head by two feet and it was gone. Gone from sight, but to another perch higher and well out of our reach. Sally and I were both mesmerized by their calls and could have easily spent more hours amongst them in that lush Arima Valley in Trinidad.

To be continued...

This is the second of three parts from Carl Starace, Niwot, Colorado 

A Note About Neonicotinoids

I have been a fan of White Flower Farm in Connecticut for quite some time. This note was included in a recent email from them and worth thinking about when you are shopping for plants.

"We recently learned about testimony given to the state government in Massachusetts that recommends the outright abolition of these chemicals within the state's borders. The speaker, who is both a Dr. and a professor, reported that there is compelling evidence that these chemicals are a danger not just to insect pollinators, but also to people. Because neonicotinoids are integrated into many agricultural products and practices, it is not obvious how far and fast such a change can progress, but we encourage you to read up on the topic. If, as some believe, this is the new DDT, it deserves our full attention. For the record, neonicotinoids were banned from our property some years back." *Editor*

"Home of the 99 cent Suet Cake"



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Continued from page 1

Our small group of birders were joined by Eileen Schwinn who had taken over the lead from Eric Salzman, of a group from the Linnaean Society a natural history organization affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History. One member of the Linnaean Society commented they had never birded to rock music before.

Here is the kicker, Eastern Long Island Audubon had asked permission to drive on the runway a few months ago. We received a letter from Sean Walters, the Riverhead Supervisor, stating that the runway and taxiway were closed, the town policy does not allow for ANY vehicles on the runways/taxiways at anytime during the day and evening. The letter ends with — Please let me know if you are still planning on visiting EPCAL to birdwatch so the we may notify the Police Department of your presence.

The reason we would like to be able to drive on the runway is that the car creates a blind and does not seem to spook the birds the way a person walking does. Birders, by the way, are driving slowly, windows open to hear the bird calls and are respectful of the environment.

Although we failed to notify the police of our presence we did find, a short distance from the runway, we did find two rare grassland sparrows, a Grasshopper and Savannah sparrow, there were several Eastern Meadowlarks and a small group of Blue Grosbeaks that were heard and glimpsed, perhaps they did not care for the rock music.

I know all of us at ELIAS would like to see this grasslands preserved, particularly the area around the west runways/taxiways which is favored by the rare grassland birds. This area is one of the very few grasslands left on Long Island and supports a very specific type of bird. Bits and pieces of EPCAL have been specified and IBAs (Important Bird Areas) as part of the Pine Barrens, but that does not seem to give it any legal rights. Riverhead you don't know what you have! 🐦



Being told in a letter from Sean Walters, the Riverhead Supervisor, that the town's policy does not allow for ANY vehicles on the runway/taxiway at anytime during the day or evening. ELIAS was shocked to find that EPCAL had been taken over with a stage, rock music, tents, bikes, vehicles of all sorts, including a parking lot on the runway worthy of parking lots at Jones Beach..



A Grasshopper Sparrow sits on a Mullein stalk just off the runway/parking lot.



The Moriches Bay Project

We all live, work or play on the Bay we all have a responsibility to care for it

Since 2013 The Moriches Bay Project has been working to improve the quality of the water in Moriches Bay. So far they have placed about 125,000 oysters in Moriches Bay. The Bay is approximately 10,000-acres that stretches from Westhampton Beach to Smith's Point in Shirley.

The Moriches Bay Project plans a four pronged attack to improve the quality of the water. First by adding oysters that filter the bay water. Each oyster filters about 50 gallons of water a day. "Just think what a million oysters can do," said Laura Fabrizio, one of the founders of the Project and Westhampton Dunes resident. The Moriches Bay Project has four established gardens now, three are in Southampton Town and one in Brookhaven Town. They are proud to say, these are the first oyster beds in Moriches Bay in over a decade.

The next piece of the puzzle is to plant eelgrass. The eelgrass helps put oxygen in the water while securing the sea bottom and creating a nursery for a wide variety of marine life.

Next is education for both children and adults. They want to increase awareness and education among the local community, and have collaborated with Cornell

Cooperative Extension SPAT program to initiate bay steward classes. These classes will take place in June and July. More information is available on their web site. Morichesbayproject.org or you may request more information from morichesbayproject@gmail.com.

They have also reached out to children to increase the awareness and importance of the bay and will continue to involve children in some of their projects. This year they went to elementary, middle schools and scout meetings to teach the kids the importance of caring for the bay,

with the community and the local government. By working together they hope to improve the water quality in our local bays.

This year they are working to add and improve their water monitoring sites in Moriches Bay. Two more water monitoring sites are in the works this year.

The Moriches Bay Project hosted their 2nd Annual Save the Bay Oyster Fling on Saturday June 25, their biggest fundraising event of the year.

"Just think what a million oysters can do."

said Laura Fabrizio

and to do hands-on cage demonstrations.

The Moriches Bay Project is small grass roots non for profit 501(3)c organization founded by Laura Fabrizio and Aram Terchunian. They are working to get support from local businesses, home owners and organizations. They believe the way to be successful is to partner

They will be speaking and updating us at the ELIAS meeting in October. Hope you will join in to ask all the questions you have. 🐦

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