



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

# THE **OSPREY**

September/October 2016 — Vol. XLI, No. 5

EASTERN LONG ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO THE

## *Annual Birding Dinner*

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 6 pm

at The Birchwood in Riverhead

Cocktails, Buffet Dinner, Raffles, Chinese Auction and fun

with guest speaker Dr. Russell Burke

## **The Coyotes are Coming: What it Means for Long Island Habitats**

Cocktails begin at 6 pm with a cash bar followed by a buffet dinner.

\$45 per person in advance/\$50 at the door.

Details on page 7, response form on page 10.



**Meetings & Walks see page 3**

## The President's Corner

# This and That

Byron Young

Finding a topic for this issue's President Corner was a bit of a struggle, but after events of the past few days, newspaper articles, emails, and list serve notices I decided that a quick summary of the issues we will be facing over the coming months would be worthwhile. Most of the items listed below are not new but have been rather quiet for a bit.

First, on the hit parade is Plum Island. As you know the Federal Government has declared its intent to sell the island for development in order to help pay for a new Level 4 Animal Disease Laboratory in Kansas. Plum Island's lab is only a level 3 facility. ELIAS has been actively involved with a coalition of environmental organizations from New York and Connecticut in an attempt to preserve this valuable natural resource and historic property. Congressman Zeldin has proposed legislation to remove the property from the sale listing. His bill did pass the House of Representatives but I am unaware of a companion bill moving through the Senate.

ELIAS and the Coalition to Preserve Plum Island will continue to make our voice heard. Some folks have been contacted by a Marketing Group out of Washington DC that is looking to help move the sale of Plum Island along. I am not exactly sure why they reached out to me but they did. They were surprised by my answer to their first question, was I familiar with Plum Island and how long had I known about the Island. My answer was yes. I had my first interaction with the laboratory over 40 years ago when I helped transport a sick seal to the lab for testing. From there we talked about the natural history of the island and the historic sites on the island. In talking with this person it became clear that she had not reached out to several key folks who have spent a great deal of time working on this issue, their names will be provided to her once I receive permission from them to do so.

ELIAS will stay involved with this until a satisfactory resolution is achieved.


Second, on the list of topics is EPCAL. A couple of our members have had difficulties while birding at EPCAL. Access to this property is quite limited and confusing. Birding seems to be a problem but other activities seem to be OK. ELIAS has asked for a permit to bird along the western runway and been refused. We did receive a one-day permit to conduct the Christmas Bird Count in 2015. It will be interesting to see if a permit is forthcoming for the 2016 Christmas Bird Count.

Others have had difficulties while birding at EPCAL and are beginning to organize in an effort to understand the policies and procedures for EPCAL access. Individual letters have been sent with little success so we are thinking that a campaign from a larger group of interested parties might work better.

There are many rumors running around about proposals for the grasslands and runways at EPCAL. Please if you hear about any proposals or see something written about a proposal please forwarded it to us. We do not always see all of the local papers that might have access to local news.

These are two of the bigger items on our list of activities. Other items that bear watching are local developments in Hampton Bays, wind farms off Long Island, County Parkland development plans to name a few. Not that we are looking for more to do but if you have an issue that you think ELIAS should be aware of or interested in please let us know.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Dinner on October 19 at The Birchwood of Polish Town. Come enjoy the company, the food and the presentation by Dr. Russell Burke. The 2017 calendar will be introduced at the dinner. The calendars will also be available at the Seed Sale on November 5th at Quogue Wildlife Refuge and at meetings.


Above all else get outside and enjoy the upcoming Fall migration! Good Birding to you all! 

## Elections: Coming Up!

The Annual Election of officers and directors of Eastern LI Audubon will take place at the October 3, 2016 member's meeting. Each year, at least two directors' terms are "up", and our by-laws require an election.

At that time the current board will nominate a slate and then ask for nominations from the floor.

Voting by members in attendance will follow. You may nominate yourself or another interested member.

The responsibilities of being a director are simple: attendance at the 6 times a year Director's Meetings (although unlimited absences are acceptable), an interest in becoming more actively involved in the club, and a willingness to learn the Secret Handshake. If you have an interest, and would like more information, please contact anyone on the Nomination Committee: Evelyn Voulgarelis (evoul3@yahoo.com), Gigi Spates (gspates@me.com) or Eileen Schwinn (beachmed@optonline.net). It's not a tough job — if we can do it, so can you! 

## ELIAS Meetings

Monday, September 12, 2016, at 7:15 pm

### Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease — What You Need to Know

Max Minnerop, MD

Chances are that you, or someone you know, has been diagnosed with Lyme or another tick-borne disease. Dr. Max Minnerop, a physician-member of the Medical Advisory Panel of Southampton Hospital's Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center, will speak about the types of diseases that are carried by the different species of ticks found on Eastern Long Island, and the symptoms, diagnostic tests, and treatment options that are available. Tips on preventing tick bites will also be shared! This is a free event. There will be ample time for Q & A. Everyone will receive a free tick removal kit.

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

### Oysters, Eel grass and one small organization, *oh my!*

Laura Fabrizio

The Moriches Bay Project (MBP) is working to improve the quality of the water in Moriches Bay and turn it back to its natural state of health through oyster farming and eel grass planting. In addition they are dedicated to bringing awareness to the local community and to educate children.

The Project is small grass roots not for profit 501c3 organization. They have the support of many of the local business, organizations, including Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Southampton Trustees and Brookhaven Town, all helping to achieve the goal of caring for the Bay. To date MBP has put roughly 300,000 oysters in Moriches Bay, including the first oyster bed in over a decade. Next year, the plan is to double that.

Did you know, one adult oyster filters 50 gallons of water EACH day, so with the help of the community MBP is making a difference that can be seen. We all live, work or play on the Bay we all have a responsibility to care for it. 🐦



Enjoying the view at Cupsogue on August 13.

## Fall Bird Walks

Saturday, September 17, 2016 – meet at 8:00 am

### North Fork Preserve

Trip Leader: Eileen Schwinn

Migrating song birds will be, hopefully, using the fields and water spots of this hidden gem of a park, to refuel on their journey south. The warblers will be a challenge to spot and ID - no helpful songs to give their presence away, and their fall plumages are usually more subdued - but we may find it to be an interesting walk! Ticks are always a problem so be sure to dress accordingly, and bring insect spray. We will meet along the driveway entrance to begin our walk. For information, please contact Eileen at beachmed@optonline.net, or by cell phone on the day of the walk, 516-662-7751.

Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Meet at 8:00 am

### Robert Moses State Park & Hawk Watch

Trip Leader: Eileen Schwinn

The fall brings many interesting birds to the barrier beach, and Robert Moses SP is one of the best! Last year our walk to the Fire Island Lighthouse showed us migrating warblers, other song birds, and an occasional hawk overhead. We will stop at the Hawk Watch to check out the action! Meet at the far eastern end of Parking Lot 5, which is a 3/4 mile walk along a boardwalk, to the lighthouse. Dress for the weather - it can be cool and windy at this time of the year - and bring a light snack and water. There is, most likely, a parking fee of \$8 per car. For information, please contact Eileen Schwinn at beachmed@optonline.net, or by cell phone on the day of the walk, 516-662-7751. She will try to set up some shared rides, if requested early enough!

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

### Hallock Farm Museum Fields & Hallock State Park

Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

The walk is sponsored by the Hallock Museum Farm on Sound Avenue in Riverhead and led by ELIAS board member MaryLaura Lamont. It 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.

*continued on page 9*



# American Museum of Natural History

## Expedition to New Guinea in

### October & November 2014

**Kathleen Heenan**

“Faraway places with strange sounding names” was the exciting and very interesting topic of the July 11th ELIAS meeting at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Paul Sweet, Collection Manager, Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History spoke of the Museum’s two month expedition to Papua New Guinea in the autumn of 2014. He showed photos of the island, its people, its history of exploration and videos. His pictures of the birds of New Guinea were fabulous. Paul was one of a group of four scientists, two Americans and two Brits (Paul is British) who traveled to New Guinea to study the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in a remote area of the Central Highlands. This area was not accessible to scientists until a gold mining company built an airstrip there. The expedition scientists wanted to know whether the wildlife, separated over a long period of time by an east west running mountain range, had evolved into different species.

New Guinea is the world’s second largest island after Greenland. The terrain varies from rugged mountains to vast swampy lowland forests. The western part of the island was once Netherlands New Guinea and is now part of Indonesia. In the east the northern part was a German colony from the late 1800’s until the end of

World War I. The remaining southeastern part was a British Colony. In the later 20th century Australia administered the eastern part which became the independent nation of Papua New Guinea in 1975. The island is located just south of the Equator in the Southwest Pacific Ocean and the Coral Sea just north of Queensland, Australia. It is considered to be the easternmost island of the Malay Archipelago. It is a biodiversity hot spot with only 0.5% of the earth’s landmass, but 5 to 10% of the earth’s species. The 779 bird species recorded, include 650 breeding species, 365 of which are endemic. There are over 700 languages spoken in New Guinea, but one common one, “Tok Pisin” or Pidgin English. The earliest Western exploration of this area was conducted by Ferdinand Magellan’s expedition in 1522 which returned to Europe with specimens of the birds of paradise.

Alfred Russell Wallace, a British naturalist explored the Malay Archipelago from 1854-62. He worked in Indonesia particularly in the part now known as Wallacea to biogeographers. The islands lie between the mainland Asian continental shelf and the Australian shelf which includes New Guinea. Wallace’s theory of evolution through natural selection was based on his study of the flora and fauna of this area. His work

*Kathleen Heenan, center, with Paul Sweet, right, after his presentation at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Her husband, Clary Olmstead is on the left*

*Right: A local man who knew the birds and could identify them in the 2014 Bird Book of New Guinea by Pratt and Beehler helped by a New Guinea naturalist, educated in Australia who spoke English and Tok Pisin, and a third man who spoke both the local “Tok Ples” language and Tok Pisin identified birds using the book and recorded their names in the local language for the first time..*



was done shortly before Charles Darwin published his *Origin of the Species*. One of Wallace’s discoveries was a line through a narrow sea channel between the islands that seems to divide the fauna of Asia from the fauna of Australia. We now call this Wallace’s Line.

In 1928 the first AMNH expedition to New Guinea was conducted by ornithologist Ernst Mayr in the remote Arfak Mountains, located in the northwest on the Vogelkop or Bird’s Head Peninsula. Subsequent AMNH expeditions in the 1930’s led by Richard Archibald and Austin Rand utilized a flying boat. While flying over the Baliem Valley they discovered a civilization of 50,000 Stone Age farmers. Expeditions led by E. Thomas and Margaret Gillard also conducted





Women do most of the work in their society: childcare, gardening, interestingly, their main currency is pigs. (Right) The locals occasionally dined on the larvae of beetles when lucky enough to find them. The native people of New Guinea relish this source of protein. They steamed them and ate them. Paul described the larvae as tasteless and rather rubbery..

scientific research sponsored by the museum from 1948-64.

Paul and his team members flew into Port Moresby, the capital of PNG and an important battle site during World War II. The surrounding, dense forest terrain still offers up evidence of military airplanes that crashed and were never recovered. Paul described Port Moresby as “a little dangerous” with its gangs of “Raskols”. There, Paul and his colleagues bought supplies, including boxes upon boxes of Duracell batteries to power their electronic equipment.

The group chartered two flights in a single engine airplane, flown by skilled German pilots who pride themselves on the challenges of flying through steep mountain terrain with low visibility. They landed on a dirt strip runway in Malaumunda, maintained by the New Tribes Mission which had been founded in 1942 and is now based in Stanton, Florida. About 200 people came out to see what was happening. The missionaries who had been there approximately ten years were packing up and leaving as Paul and his group arrived. Missionaries had come into this area following the gold companies. Gold was discovered in the highlands of New Guinea in 1926 by three Australian brothers, the Leaheys. There is still panning for gold in the rivers by the locals.

The local people lived in thatched roof houses, built on stilts, using local wood, and palm leaves. Underneath the houses

were cooking pits that opened up into the homes. As a result, it was incredibly smoky inside, but perhaps the smoke helped to keep insects out.

Women do most of the work in their society: childcare, gardening (the gardens are all located outside their village), washing, cleaning, etc. The men were warriors with metal tools. The men hold meetings to discuss issues and make decisions. Interestingly, their main currency is pigs. Pigs constitute an important part of a bride’s dowry. Notwithstanding this, on important occasions a pig will be slaughtered and roasted for the whole village.

After a few days, the group was off to the highlands, elevation approximately 7,500 feet, to do their scientific research. It took about 75 porters to carry all the baggage. As is customary, there were significant and complicated negotiations on pay. The payments were based on the weight of the bags being carried.

Although they were carrying all the baggage, the two day journey was much easier for the porters than for Paul and his group. The journey consisted of 14 hour days, hiking up and down steep hills and walking across ravines on bamboo and vine suspension bridges. There was no proper trail. Sweet potatoes and other starchy tubers constituted the main food on the trek.

The group arrived at a base camp with platforms covered by tarps and with a

recently constructed field lab. It rained much of the time and the weather was cool. The first part of the expedition was conducted in the highlands and the second half in the lowlands where it was warmer and more buggy.

The ornithologists surveyed birds by observation and also setting up mist nets in the fields and forests. The expedition found sickle bills, fruit-doves, parrots, Pitohuis (which are poisonous to eat), honeyeaters, fantails, hornbills, whistlers and colorful kingfishers (most of which don’t eat fish). Observing birds in the high canopy of the trees was very difficult and even if movement was seen, it was hard to get a good look. However, they did see birds of paradise.

The mammalogists looked for rodents, bats and marsupials. The herpetologist found lizards and snakes, including a small blind snake living in leaf litter. The local people dislike snakes. The herpetologist also discovered a huge diversity of frogs, possibly some new species. Some were only one inch long and incredibly well camouflaged.

Naming the various birds was difficult because the group did not speak the local language. But a local man, who adhered to traditional beliefs with a beard and wearing an elaborate head gear made of leaves, knew the birds and could identify them in the 2014 *Bird Book of New Guinea*

*continued on the next page*

continued from page 5

by Pratt and Beehler. With the help of a New Guinea naturalist, educated in Australia who spoke English and Tok Pisin, and a third man who spoke both the local "Tok Ples" language and Tok Pisin they identified birds using the book and recorded their names in the local language for the first time.

So how did Paul and the other scientists survive two months in this wild place? Paul took Doxycycline every day as Malaria prophylaxis. The group's diet mainly consisted of rice, canned mackerel and corned beef with crackers. The locals occasionally dined on the larvae of beetles when lucky enough to find them. The native people of New Guinea relish this source of protein. They steamed them and ate them. Paul described the larvae as tasteless and rather rubbery. He would have preferred if they were fried and dipped in soy sauce.

When it came time to leave, one airplane came back to collect the group and all their equipment and specimens. But first, everything, including the scientists and all their belongings, had to be carefully weighed to avoid any chance of being too heavy for take-off, especially in such rugged terrain.


Research into the findings from the expedition is still ongoing and, therefore, the results have not yet been published. Paul wrote to me that "we can say that we documented the biodiversity of a previously unknown remote mountain region, including several range extensions for birds and several probable new species of mammals and amphibians."

For those interested in learning more about New Guinea, Paul Sweet recommended the following books:

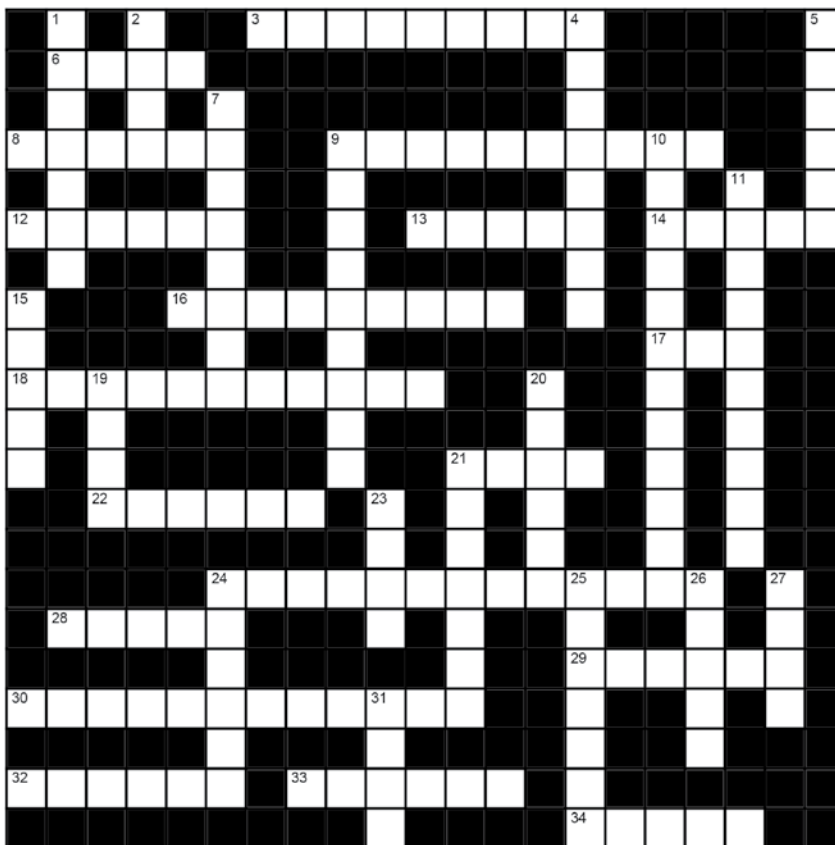
*Malay Archipelago* by Alfred Russell Wallace, 1869;

*Under the Mountain Wall: A Chronicle of Two Seasons in the Stone Age New Guinea* by Peter Mathieson, 1961, about the Peabody-Harvard expedition to Central New Guinea in the mile high Baliem Valley.

And I enjoyed this book:

*The Song of the DoDo Bird* by David Quammen, 1996 Scribener which contains chapters on the work of Alfred Russell Wallace in the Indonesian archipelago. 

## Where to Bird... Tom Moran



### Across

- 3 Hamlet (community) where EPCAL is located  
 6 The business part of 14 Across  
 8 Black \_\_\_\_\_, seen at Jones Beach West End this summer  
 9 Small white and black duck, maybe by the end of October  
 12 King Arthur's wizard or a migrating falcon, go see one at... see 28 Across  
 13 Common \_\_\_\_\_ hawk, prefers open areas, active in evenings and...  
 14 Needs 6 Across to work and sits on 33 Across  
 16 American \_\_\_\_\_, not a mallard, the other common duck (2 words)  
 17 Cape \_\_\_\_\_, NJ, exceptional place to watch the fall hawk migration.  
 18 Harper Lee followed to *Kill a \_\_\_\_\_*, with *Go Set a Watchman*, although this second book was written first and served as a draft for its more famous earlier release.  
 21 Ring, Herring, Great Black-backed  
 22 After seeing one of these in the field, at the end of the day, try Old Grand-dad's Wild \_\_\_\_\_  
 24 American \_\_\_\_\_, flamboyantly large, red bill.  
 28 See 12 Across at the hawk watch platform at Robert \_\_\_\_\_.  
 29 Piping, Semipalmated, for example  
 30 North \_\_\_\_\_, (2 words), try for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks here in the sage bushes beyond the pond this month  
 32 Not a Peterson guide, but \_\_\_\_\_  
 33 Put 14 Across on this for a stable image  
 34 Try Franklin Mtn. upstate for a chance to see a migrating Golden \_\_\_\_\_ this season

### Down

- 1 Northern \_\_\_\_\_, type of woodpecker  
 2 Red \_\_\_\_\_, among the longest migrating birds  
 4 Try the Coast Guard Station for a Red-breasted \_\_\_\_\_ in October.  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Heron, seen this summer at the Shirley Marina County Park and was seen there in October 2015, so go try.  
 7 \_\_\_\_\_'s Gull, not Ben, but rather Sir John whose 1823 Arctic expedition first recorded one.  
 9 In the English nursery rhyme, Sing a Song of Sixpence: Four and twenty \_\_\_\_\_, Baked in a pie. Yum!!  
 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Pond Preserve, try for a Virginia (see 31 down) here late spring/early summer  
 11 \_\_\_\_\_ DEC (2 words), once operated by RCA Corporation  
 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve, aka Wading River Marsh Preserve  
 19 American \_\_\_\_\_, a duck-like bird with white bill, big feet, runs on water when trying to take flight  
 20 Was that an eastern or western?  
 21 Boat-tailed or Common?  
 23 You won't need so much when the weather cools down, aka jungle juice  
 24 ELIAS's logo bird  
 25 White-faced Ibis was seen here in the summer last year, \_\_\_\_\_ Island  
 26 Common \_\_\_\_\_ not so common on LI, better chance in the Adirondaks  
 27 Common, Roseate, Arctic or Least...  
 31 See 10 Down



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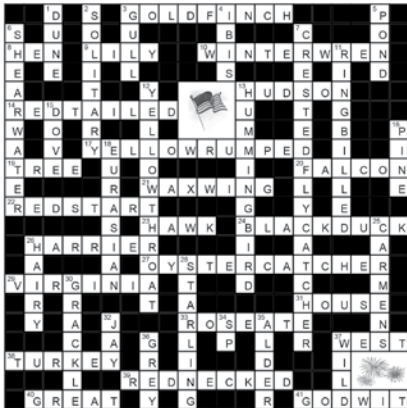
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Eastern Long Island  
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on Facebook!**

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



# Annual Celebration Dinner

Dr. Russell Burke, a wildlife ecologist and professor of biology at Hofstra University will be our guest speaker at the Annual Birding Dinner. His interests include the ecology, evolution, and conservation biology of vertebrates. Most of the species he studies are either introduced species or rare species, thus the focus is population control (either up or down). Much of his field work takes place in the urban and suburban habitats of New York City and Long Island. His long term research projects involve diamondback terrapins at Jamaica Bay, wood turtles in northern New Jersey, and the coyote invasion of Long Island and its community ecology implications.



Dr. Russell Burke

His presentation at the ELIAS dinner will touch on what we know about the coyote population that are likely to invade Long Island, and what we don't know about the changes they will bring.

Currently, Long Island, NY is without a breeding population of northeastern coyote, yet recent evidence of dispersing individuals on the island, coupled with the "dogged" momentum of coyote range expansion across North America, suggests a Long Island coyote population is close at hand. Just reported in *Newsday*, a coyote

family was found at an industrial park in Astoria.

The Birchwood, at 512 Pulaski Street in Polish Town in Riverhead, will be preparing a variety of Polish and other specialties for us to enjoy. The cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begin at 6 pm. Members and friends of ELIAS are all welcome. There will be a raffle and for the second time a Chinese auction. Invitations and raffle tickets are sent to members. If you would like to attend or have any questions please call Sally at 632.281.6001, Ridgie at 631.288-3628 or Evelyn at 631.727-0417. The cost is \$45 per person. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$25 for a book of 6. 🦅

## DINNER RESERVATION

Wednesday, October 19 at The Birchwood in Riverhead

Bluebird Sponsor (\$45 per person)  Eagle Sponsor (\$70 per person)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each. \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join  or renew  my membership in ELIAS at \$20 year \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is for Jan. 2017 to Dec. 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Email will only be used by ELIAS to notify you of future events.*

Checks should be payable to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society and sent to: ELIAS, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206



*"Look Up", shouted our guide. Up and over our heads flew flocks of Scarlet Ibis. Flock upon flock were passing. Not in dozens, but fifty and one hundred at a time. We all stood up to watch in awe as the canopy became a mass of scarlet feathers.*

## More Avian Treasures on the Island of Trinidad

### Carl Starace

My partner, Sally Swain, and I joined other birders in one of Asa Wright Lodges vans for a full day of birding in Trinidad's lowlands. We traveled to Trinidad's eastern coastal road where tall coconut palms line a fine white sand beach. We soon reached Nariva Swamp, a large freshwater herbaceous swamp. Along its edges are *palm islands* where tall Moriche Palms are common. We drove along rough dirt paths that crisscrossed the wet areas observing several subtly stunning Pinnated Bitterns, Purples Gallinules, Wattled Jacanas and the largest plover in the Americas, the Southern Lapwing. This boldly patterned plover easily has the most field marks as well. It has a red iris, its

forehead, throat, lower breast and long occipital crest are black. The open wings are a bronze green with true black primaries and bright white wing coverts. The legs are surprisingly long for a plover and pink in color. Sally and I got to see them a number of times in beach, swamp and savannah habitats and with their loud scolding calls, longish wings and bounding flight, they soon became a favorite. Another bird spotted by our guide as we were leaving the swamp was a Rufous Crab Hawk. A medium sized hawk whose sole food source are crabs. We next traveled to an abandoned US Air force facility used by our military during WW II called Waller Field. Along the way we saw many Great Kiskadees,

Tropical Kingbirds, several Savannah Hawks, a Yellow-headed Caracara and a Crane Hawk. Our target birds at Waller Field was a Sulphury Flycatcher, Forktailed Palm Swifts and the uncommon Moriche Oriole. This Oriole is known for its close association with the Mauritiam palm. We walked along the overgrown roadbeds scanning the dense palm tops for this handsome species. Our group came upon both the swifts and flycatcher fairly quickly but the orioles were seen just in the last minutes of our visit. The Moriche Oriole eats mainly insects, but sometimes fruits and nectar. Their long hanging nests are made of grasses and plant fibers. Watching them through a scope we could see their golden yellow on

*The Southern Lapwing is the largest plover in the Americas*



*Red-capped Cardinals, this tropical cardinal shows no resemblance to our native bird.*





their nape, crown, rump, wing patch and thighs, upon a black body. Seeing it, ended a fine day of tropical birding.

Our second travel took us to Caroni Swamp which is 6000 Hectares in size. Its many channels through dense mangrove forest are home to many bird species more common on the nearby South American mainland as well as tree snakes and even the Silky Anteater. Nearing the entrance gate we watched flocks of Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons passing over. We exited the van and found shelter just as a light rain hit the visitor center roof. From there we watched a half dozen Red-capped Cardinals land on a fine mesh fence just twenty yards off the building. This tropical cardinal has a red head without a crest, and its pure white front and dark back and tail show no resemblance to our native bird. As the rain let up our guide called for us to climb aboard a broad-beamed, hardwood craft that would uncomfortably hold twenty passengers. Out in the narrow channels the tiller man was soon maneuvering

the boat in amongst overhanging boughs so that all could see a Tropical Screech Owl, Tree Boa and a wary Boat-billed Heron. Within the next watery hour we were treated to views of Ringed Kingfisher and two tiny flycatchers, the Pied Water Tyrant and White-headed Marsh Tyrant. And just before dusk settled in we cruised along one edge of a very large lagoon. We could now see the distant mountains and also the receding storm clouds. We anchored there just as all around us was covered by a golden hue. "Look There", our guide shouted. Up and over our heads flew flocks of Scarlet Ibis. Flock upon flock were passing. Not in dozens, but fifty and one hundred at a time. All were headed for the same grove of trees directly across the lagoon. We all stood up to watch in awe as the canopy became a mass of Scarlet feathers. These were moments to be treasured in a mangrove swamp on the island called Trinidad. 🦅

*This is the third of three parts from Carl Starace, Niwot, Colorado.*



As the rain let up our guide called for us to climb aboard. Out in the narrow channels the tiller man was soon maneuvering the boat in amongst overhanging boughs so that all could see a Tropical Screech Owl, Tree Boa and a wary Boat-billed Heron.

*Continued from page 3*

**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. This walk is sponsored by the National Park Service, led by ELIAS Board Member, MaryLaura Lamont. There is no charge for this walk. 🦅

The 2017 ELIAS Calendar

will make its debut at our

Birding Dinner.

It will also be available at the

Nov. 5th Seed Sale.

*(they make great holiday gifts*

*for the birders in your life)*

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## Plum Island

Larry Penny, a regular contributor to The Osprey. He recently visited Plum Island with Southampton Trails.

### Larry Penny

A visit to Plum Island on August 17 was an eye-opener. There were Ospreys carrying fish in their talons, moseying Turkey Vultures, harbor seals in the Long Island Sound waters swimming among the glacial eratics, and a Cormorant or two and no ticks whatsoever. But the best sightings of all were the numerous Monarch Butterflies cruising the bluffs and the scores of Tree Swallows in the throes of their southward migration overhead. They must have been efficiently cleansing the skies of flying insects because I didn't get a single mosquito bite in five hours of wandering 🦋.



Tree Swallows on the move

## A Quiet Revolution in Sustainable Landscape Maintenance

Are you sick of the noise of gas powered leaf blowers and other power equipment in your neighborhood and parks? According to OSHA and NIOSH the noise can reach levels well beyond recommended levels. The hot air jets blow at over 200 mph desiccate sap and destroy pollinator and insect habitats that birds rely on for nourishment.

There are alternatives.

**Quiet Communities**, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, is sponsoring an event on Thursday, October 27th 2016 from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Montaukett Learning Resource Center, Suffolk Community College in Riverhead, NY. There will be demonstrations of new equipment that gets the job done, but does not do damage to environment. This session is open to all, including landscapers.

The aim is to:

- Discover why businesses, communities, and schools are transitioning away from fossil fuel-powered maintenance.

- Find out about Long Island's first AGZA-certified Green Zone®.
- Learn about new technologies that deliver great performance, eliminate pollution, reduce noise, improve sustainability...and save money!
- Try out a full line of innovative equipment and exciting prototypes.

And to make it more tempting, lunch is included.

Quiet Communities, working with AGZA (American Green Zone Alliance), and Quiet Communities advocates for sustainable landscaping practices and the restriction of gas leaf blowers that negatively impact people's health, the environment and everyone's quality of life.

Some of the parks in Huntington and East Quogue are using these principles and this new equipment to maintain their facilities and the hope is many more will adopt them.

If you would like more information, please contact Bonnie Sager at 631 423 3215.



## Please Don't Release Helium Balloons!

In mid August an Osprey was found near a Ogden Pond in Quogue tangled in the remnants of a balloon bouquet. The entrapment had damaged its wing tips. The staff at the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center in Hampton Bays determined it could not be rehabilitated. They were heartbroken that they had to euthanize the bird. This was reported in *27 East*.

As reported in *City Lab*, work crews at The Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey collected more than 100 balloons in various states of inflation. And tried to help a large sea turtle that was found with a balloon string hanging out of its mouth.

It is very difficult for the rescuers at these facilities to try to help these animals that get tangled in balloon strings, or fishing

line.

We all know how much kids like the balloons and how touching it is to make them part of a memorial service, but please try to dispose of them properly or better yet, do something else.

If you are looking for alternatives to balloons there are alternatives that do not do so much harm. Check out the web site:

[\*\*http://balloonsblow.org/\*\*](http://balloonsblow.org/)  
**environmentally-friendly-alternatives**

Among their suggestions:

**Wildflower seed bombs** – A great way to give a gift that grows — make your own flower seed bombs. Use only use native seeds. These spread life-giving, beautiful flowers.

**Bubbles and Giant bubbles** – Blowing bubbles is always fun; watching them

bounce around towards the sky and twist with the wind. It also requires you to exhale and breathe. This is a great way to release your feelings as well and just let go. Imagine the spectacular sight of a countless number of bubbles floating away into the sky with a piece of every person that had gathered together!

**Lighting candles & Luminaries** – A great way to remember a loved one or welcome new life is by lighting candles. This can be a lasting, and comforting connection between you and another life! Luminaries are beautiful at night and can be used to line sidewalks or placed in a group.

To find out more, check that web site: [\*\*http://balloonsblow.org/\*\*](http://balloonsblow.org/)  
**environmentally-friendly-alternatives**



# Annual Seed Sale Fundraiser

**Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**S**tart the winter off with plenty of seed! The birds will thank you all winter long! Please have your order form in by **October 23rd**. This is a fund raiser for Eastern Long Island Audubon Society and for the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Bay Gardens will be in the Nature Center selling bird related gift items! Please pre-order your seed. Order forms will be available at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge, as well as on the following websites in October: [www.QuogueWildlifeRefuge.org](http://www.QuogueWildlifeRefuge.org) and [www.EasternLongIslandAudubonSociety.org](http://www.EasternLongIslandAudubonSociety.org).

**Made possible with the generous assistance of Eastport Feeds.**

Qty	Description	Price	Totals
_____	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower	\$26.00	_____
_____	50 lb Black Oil Sunflower	\$45.00	_____
_____	20 lb Fancy Flight Premium Wild Bird Mix	\$18.00	_____
_____	40 lb Fancy Flight Premium Wild Bird Mix	\$30.00	_____
_____	20 lb Niger Seed	\$28.00	_____
_____	11 oz Suet Cake	\$ 2.00	_____
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	_____
		<b>DONATION</b>	_____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

*Orders need to be picked up on Saturday, November 5, 2016  
between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm*

**Please make checks payable to: Quogue Wildlife Refuge.**

Please charge my card  AMEX  VISA  MasterCard  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this order form to Quogue Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 492, Quogue, NY, 11959

**\*Orders must be received by October 23, 2016 \*Pre-payment is necessary.**

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# The **OSPREY**

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## 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**

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