



# THE OSPREY

November/December 2017 — Vol. XLII, No. 6



Chris Paparo, (left) our speaker with Byron Young, ELIAS President.

Below, Evelyn Voulgarelis presents The Osprey award to Christine Schmitt.

After dinner the audience enjoyed the presentation.



## Birding with the Fish Guy comes to COWFISH

Sally Newbert

A beautiful warm evening greeted our guests for the Annual Dinner at COWFISH. The lights were sparkling on Shinnicock Canal and on the willow tree in front of the restaurant. Raffles, Chinese Auction, buffet dinner and Chris Paparo's presentation, Birding with the Fish Guy awaited the guests. We had a great turnout, over 90 people attended.

It was with great pleasure that Evelyn Voulgarelis announced the winner of this year's Osprey award for outstanding service to ELIAS. Christine Schmitt, the winner, has been the Recording Secretary for ELIAS for many years and we hope she continues her service. (I don't think anyone else could do it, but don't tell anyone). Beyond that she is always there when she has been asked to help at Earth Day, Seed Sale and many other events.

She is involved in the Garden Club and has an extensive knowledge of gardening and plants, many people have turned to her for advise about plants and gardening. Congratulations Chris!

Chris Paparo, the Fish Guy, is the manager of the Marine Sciences Center at Stony Brook-Southampton at Stony Brook University. He shared some of his experiences observing a variety of shorebirds, herons and ducks giving clues from one to the next and pointing out the importance of careful observation. A few photography hints were thrown in. He showed one picture of a group of Mallards and Black Duck all taking off in a flurry of frantic activity. This award winning photograph captures the excitement of ducks taking off. You would think it was taken out in wilds of a bay with a fierce predator in pursuit but it

was taken at a small park when a toddler approached and sent all the ducks into a frenzy. Take advantage of opportunities, they may be right around the corner.

He shares some of his more fishy adventures on his facebook page and his photography page, fishguyphotos.com, where you can see his duck photo and try to pick out the Black Ducks from the female Mallards. *Hint: the bill color is different.* His latest sighting, I am sure there will be more by the time you read this, is a Moa Moa (Ocean Sunfish) which he photographed from his boat with his drone. He is a fun guy to follow. 🐟

**It's time to renew your membership.**

**All memberships now run from January to December. There is a form on the backcover.**

**See page 3 for programs, See page 4 for nature walks**

## The President's Corner

# ELIAS Birding Adventures!

Byron Young

We all enjoy watching birds, whether it is from our back porch, out a window or wandering about with a group or alone. One never knows what you will find, some common bird performing for us or an exotic bird hiding in the underbrush. I partake of all three options, while other duties have prevented me from participating in many of the ELIAS sponsored bird walks, I think these are my favorite. I hope that others feel the same way.

ELIAS offers a number of excellent bird walks during the year from Montauk Point to Robert Moses on the South Shore to the RCA Property in Rocky Point to Hallockville along the North Shore. Trip leaders take us to Dune Road, the William Floyd Estate, the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge, and we must not forget the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Our trip leaders are all outstanding birders who offer their expertise to the groups that they lead. ELIAS members one and all offer their expertise to fellow birders who join us on a walk.

Our trip leaders are cautious to keep us away from the creepy crawly creatures that inhabit the underbrush and seek to cause potential harm. Unfortunately, that is where our feathered friends like to hide out. When birding alone many of these birds go unnoticed or are able to hide sufficiently from our prying eyes as they evade identification. However, when birding with a group of people the multiple sets of eyes increases the chance of success as we search the landscape.

This is where it becomes interesting, some birds just sit out in the open and say look at me, however, not often or at least not often enough. Maybe, just maybe this is part of the enjoyment of birding, finding that life list bird hiding in the canopy. I ask the rhetorical question here, "Why is it that birds flit about the canopy or underbrush and hide behind every leaf or branch." I suppose if I were good enough I could identify such birds from a patch of color or a movement, maybe

even a sound. Way too often the bird is feeding through the canopy too fast for me to follow. In a group, with everyone watching generally someone can find a clearer view of the bird and begin the process of directing the group's attention to the bird.

This is where the tricky part comes in directing another person or groups of people's attention to the birds in the forest canopy. I suspect that there is a protocol for directing one's attention to a bird on a branch in a forest somewhere, but I could not find it.

If one can multi-task while birding with a group and listen to the directions for spotting a bird you might hear some very entertaining directions. While birding, I have heard the following, no names to protect the innocent who were just trying to help:

"The bird is in the dead tree." We were surrounded by dead trees!"

"The bird is on the branch that swoops up to the right." I now had to find a branch that swoops; I was looking for the Nike symbol.

"Do you see that big tree (We are standing in a forest surrounded by big trees), well it is in the top of the tree just behind it and to the left."

"It is at 2 o'clock on the branch behind the bright green shrub!" I don't wear a watch anymore, however, maybe I need one while birding.

I am sure that there are many additional helpful directions that each of us has heard while birding with a friend or a group. I for one

appreciate every attempt at directing my attention to a bird hiding in plain sight. However, sometimes it is a challenge to find the tree in the forest. Please do not let this story dissuade you from joining us on one of our many fine bird walks throughout the year. Consider it an open invitation to join our band of merry birders as we practice our best Abbot and Costello routines in the search for our feathered friends.

ELIAS hosts at least one walk each month throughout the year and in a number of cases more. The month of May is especially active as we seek out the migrating warblers who like to hide from prying eyes as they move about the canopy seeking food and mates on their northward journey. Don't let the winter blues get you down, join one of our walks in search of overwintering waterfowl on the Lakes around Patchogue or the farm fields in Riverhead.

Join us on one of our walks, you may find that new bird for your list, at the very least you will be presented with some fine entertainment and knowledge from our walk leaders and participants as we refresh our minds and spirits.

Good Birding! 🦅



"Do you see that big tree (We are standing in a forest surrounded by big trees), well it is in the top of the tree just behind it and to the left."

# November & December ELIAS Meetings

Monday, November 6, 2017

## Beginning Birding

Eileen Schwinn

What do I need? Where do I go? WHEN do I go? How do I go? Join Eileen Schwinn, ELIAS vice-president and Trip Leader, to learn the basics of one of the fastest growing hobbies in the U.S. today. Eileen has traveled to Washington State, California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Florida, Maine, and Ohio(??), as well as Aruba, Iceland, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica, Germany, and, most recently, Cuba, always in search of BIRDS! Never leaving home without her binoculars, she has contributed articles and photographs describing a number of her "adventures" to our Newsletter, *The Osprey*. "No matter how cluttered your life – or your mind is – a few minutes or hours out with the birds, can help put things in perspective. It's renewing and rewarding, and time well spent. And you get to meet some pretty neat birds – and people along the way!" Come learn the Basics of Birding, and maybe you too, will be bitten by The Birding Bug!

Monday, December 4, 2017, at 7:15 pm

## The Healing Power of Nature:

A Practical Exploration of How Nature can  
Influence our Health & Well-being

John P. Cardone

ELIAS is joining with Quogue Wildlife Refuge to bring you this program sponsored by Carman's River Canoe & Kayak. Long Island author, lecturer, and photographer John P. Cardone will get you thinking about how nature can help you feel better physically and mentally as he uses a PowerPoint presentation to present the facts. This talk is based on John's research for his new book entitled, *The Healing Power of Nature*. During his talk, John presents information on how spending time with nature can influence your health & well-being. Along the way, he calls on his over 30 years in healthcare education, his own fight with illness, and his years as a lover of the outdoors while presenting the scientific facts. Enjoy his nature photos of wildlife and waterscapes, most taken while kayaking LI waters. Find out more about the importance of calming your mind, the health benefits of the outdoors, and why it is especially important to share this spirit with children—all of which will get you wanting to spend more time with nature.

 **Please note: There is no January meeting!** 

Meetings are held at Quogue Wildlife Refuge  
3 Old Country Road, Quogue, NY.  
Directions are on the website.  
easternlongislandaudubonsociety.org.

Meetings are open to the public, there is no charge.

# Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

There are no December Field Trips – instead, you are invited to participate in the Christmas Bird Counts. There are three established territories in our region. You may participate in one or all, just contact the leaders.

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

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

### Quogue-Water Mill CBC

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Contact Steve Biasetti

[sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org](mailto:sbiasetti@eastendenvironment.org) or

Office: 631-765-6450 x205, Home: 631-874-4684

### Central Suffolk Wednesday, December 27, 2017

Contact Eileen Schwinn at [beachmed@optonline.net](mailto:beachmed@optonline.net)

### Orient Count Saturday, December 30, 2017

Patrick Hanly, Compiler, Orient CBC,

[pat@mattpres.com](mailto:pat@mattpres.com)

631-312-0824

### WATERFOWL CENSUS

January 14-22, 2018

(target date - Sunday, January 15, 2018)

### Smith Point to Shinnecock Inlet

Contact Jay Kuhlman at

[sjkuhlman@aol.com](mailto:sjkuhlman@aol.com) or 631.878.4461

### Yaphank to Peconic Bay

Contact Rosemary Valente at

[hobbescmom4ever@gmail.com](mailto:hobbescmom4ever@gmail.com)

### Montauk to Shinnecock

Contact Frank Quevedo

at 631.537.9735 or [sofoexdir@optonline.com](mailto:sofoexdir@optonline.com)

### Reeves Bay to Noyack Bay and Fresh Pond to Sag Harbor

Contact John McNeil at 631.281.2623

or [mcneil.jp@gmail.com](mailto:mcneil.jp@gmail.com) 

# Nature Walks

## Two Pre-Thanksgiving November walks

Saturday, November 18, 2017, meet at 9 am

### Hallock State Park

Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

Sponsored by the Hallockville Museum Farm and led by ELIAS board member MaryLaura Lamont this walk, of about 2-miles, goes through fields and into the woods of Hallock State Park where we will reach dunes with spectacular views of Long Island Sound. We are looking 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 Hallockville Museum Farm. The fee benefits the Museum's education fund. Please call the Museum for reservations, 631-298-5292.

Sunday, November 19, 2017, meet at 9 am

### William Floyd Estate

Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

The old William Floyd Estate has a variety of habitats featuring fields, creeks, woods and marsh so it brings in a rich variety of birds as they migrate through the 613 acres. Situated on beautiful Moriches Bay we can observe shorebirds, ducks, hawks and possibly bald eagles as well as sparrows, woodpeckers and some warblers. Join us for this late autumn bird walk of 3 miles. Please use the main Entrance Gate at 245 Park Drive, Mastic Beach Call 631-399-2030 for more info or directions.

Please join a Christmas Bird Count or a Waterfowl Census in December and January — see page 3.

Saturday, January 6, 2018, meet at 9 am

### Lakes Around Patchogue

Leader: John McNeil

Meet at the parking area at the corner of Lake Drive and East Main Street in East Patchogue by the side of Swan Lake. We will check out Swan Lake and then visit several other spots for a look at the bountiful water birds that flock to LI in the winter. Hopefully a surprise or two will be waiting for us. Contact John McNeil at 631.281.2623 or mcneil.jp@gmail.com .

Snow date: Saturday, January 13, 2018

For all our walks be sure to dress for the weather and bring binoculars!

## Our Mystery Sparrows from the last issue



Chipping Sparrow at Connetquot State Park, he has a distinctive rufous cap.



Field Sparrow at the South Fork Natural History Museum's Vineyard Field has an almost clear breast, white eye-rings and pink bill.



Savannah Sparrow at EPCAL



Grasshopper Sparrow at EPCAL



These are not sparrows, but two female Purple Finch taken at Hallock State Park.



Our trickiest sparrow is a juvenile Grasshopper Sparrow at EPCAL. The stripes on the chest will fade with age.



Saltmarsh Sparrow along Dune Road.



One of the most common sparrows - the Song Sparrow

# There is a new park in town

## *Two birders visit Hallock State Park Preserve*

### Sally Newbert

One Saturday morning in September Rosemary Valente and I set off to find some “grasspipers” in the sod and farm fields of Riverhead. As we all know birding can be a frustrating experience. On the calendar fall had come, and there were a few reports of sightings of Golden Plover and Buff Breasted Sandpipers. But that Saturday, if they were there we did not find them. So after several trips around the fields we decided to see what the new park, Hallock State Park Preserve was like.

We have visited this park on the semi-annual walks led by MaryLaura Lamont through the Hallockville Museum Farm. On those walks we went through the Museum Farm fields and then into the Park Preserve.

Going up the new park entrance gave us a different perspective. It looks like they restructured some of the paths. The descriptions of the park promised a mile of beach front. We had never reached the beach on previous walks.

When we arrived we drove up to the parking lot on the hill, read the directions on the kiosk to see how you paid. It is a system not unlike the one at Bayard Cutting Arboretum. We drove back down to the nature center at the bottom of the hill. There we were told the Empire Pass is all you need. (This is a NY state park). No need to stop at the nature center. (They do offer bathrooms, always a good thing while birding). So back up we went. We were told that all the trails lead to the beach, but to beware, some trails were not finished yet. We took one of the trails that took us through the woods. It offered a view of Hallock Pond from the west side of the pond, we usually saw it from the other side, but there still was nothing on it. On we went, past the large dunes that give you a view of LI Sound. It seems that the trails that went up to top were no longer in use.

We did get to the beach, and spent some time relaxing on a nice bench that overlooks the Sound. We both thought

it would be good spot come winter for winter ducks and loons. Two horseback riders took the path to the beach, waved at us and proceeded on. I still get a kick out of seeing horses on the trail. Guess I just never grew up, or just wish I was one on horseback.

When we were ready to go we took the gravel trail that took us directly back to the parking lot. A shorter route to the beach, yes, but quite steep. Not conducive to dragging a picnic to the beach or a paddle board, which the park promotes as one of the activities it will offer. Maybe they will improve the situation and have some parking down by the beach, if not plan on a healthy walk down to the beach. The person in the nature center and store said they were still working on some trails. We explored one trail, and look forward to the one we missed, and the new ones to come.

We managed 19 species birds in total, mostly the usual suspects. As we left there was a Turkey Vulture that landed on one of the fence posts by the driveway. The bird sat for quite a while and it did not seem upset by a few cars driving by. I was happy to get a good view of the bird. Not pretty, that's for sure. But since you usually see them flying in their distinctive dihedral high overhead, this closeup offered a new view of its strange naked head, including the bumps on its face. Nearby several Eastern Phoebes were hunting bugs from the fence.

On November 19th Mary Laura will be leading the trip from the Hallockville Museum Farm that will be walking into the park from the west side, we will be able to see how things have changed since our last visit. 🐦



*The Turkey Vulture posed quite close to the road, allowing us to observe its unusual head at close range.*

### **Hallock State Park Preserve stats:**

Address: 6062 Sound Avenue  
Jamesport, NY 11947

Phone: 631.315-5475

Hallock State Park Preserve offers a total of 225 acres. Hallock State Park Preserve is a shore front park preserve that offers nearly one mile of pristine beach front on the North Shore of Long Island along the Long Island Sound.

Hiking, nature walks, and bird watching are available on the eastern portion of the property. Development of the remainder of the preserve is in the planning stages and may include formal trails, environmental education, and activities appropriate for a park preserve.

Open year round.

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays.

## A Bird of the Tropical Sea Visits Montauk

### Sally Newbert

All of us crazy birders get very excited when a rarity comes to town. I am not sure how many times a Brown Booby has shown up in New York State. But surely, it is not often.

So as ebird alerts kept coming up, I, like many others had to head out to Montauk to see this bird.

Peterson's says It is a bird of the "tropical oceans, occasional at sea off Gulf Coast and Florida (esp. Dry Tortugas)."

Personally I have seen it once when it flew alongside the ferry between St. Thomas and St. John. Now you get the picture. Usually it is not here, should not be here. But there it was, on top of the mast of a sailboat, viewable from the Star Island Yacht Club. It would fly off, get some food and come back to it's favorite perch.

It has been reported well into the month of October. In all probability it was blown up here because of one of the hurricanes.

The food here is plentiful with the large schools of menhaden (bunker) that also keep the whales and dolphins happy (they too are happy and plentiful this warm fall). So the Montauk Brown Booby is hanging around, well fed and with cooperative weather.

You can tell by the face that it is in the same family as the Northern Gannet. It feeds in a similar fashion too, by plunging head first into the ocean. Its field marks are a white belly in clean contrast to its dark sooty brown breast and back. Its beak and large feet are yellowish.

So not unlike the Northern Gannet and with the feet not unlike the Blue-footed Booby of the Galápagos, Long Island birders and Montauk welcomed the Brown Booby. 🐦



*Brown Booby atop the mast of the Maui in Montauk. Photo by Shai Mitra, used with his permission.*

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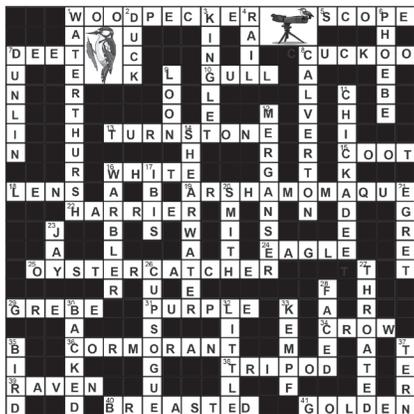
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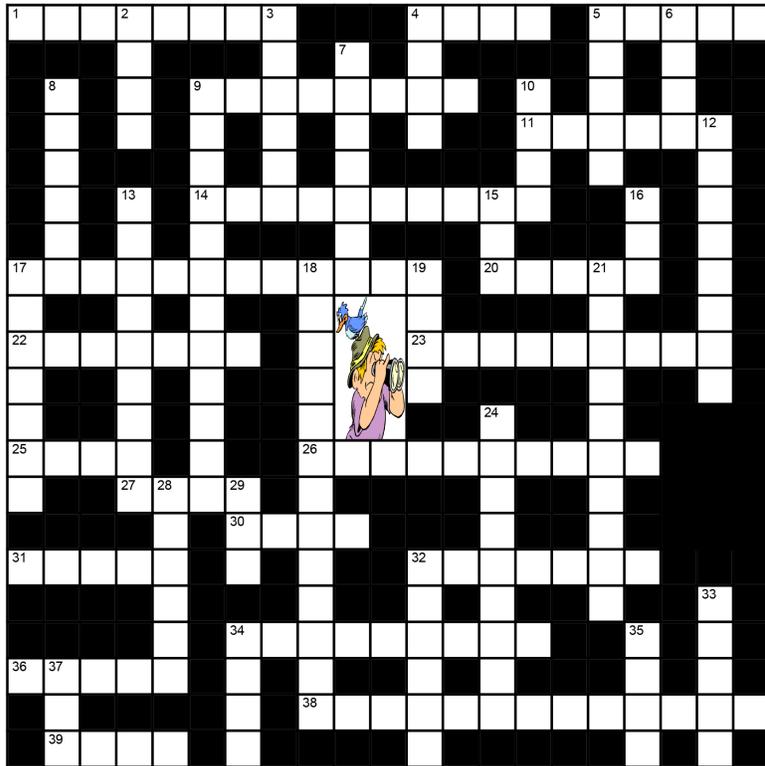
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on Facebook!**

## Answers to September/October puzzle Happy Fall! by Tom Moran



## Late Fall Birding Tom Moran



### Across

- 1 National Wildlife Refuge, Shirley NY
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Thrush, ee-oh-lay
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Goose, possessive (extra s), one was shot after being sighted in 2015
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Goose, named for the medieval belief that they didn't migrate but became a shell
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Point, a good place to get Harlequin Duck
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ River SP
- 17 With 22 Across an uncommon visitor in migration
- 20 Birder's \_\_\_\_\_, an alternative to eBird
- 22 See 17 Across
- 23 Northern \_\_\_\_\_, plural
- 25 Virginia \_\_\_\_\_, check Arshamomaque
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Gull
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ Beach, Nassau County
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_ Day, December 26 in Ireland
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Sparrow, falling ping pong ball song
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ Bunting
- 34 Swan River Preserve, East \_\_\_\_\_, good place to get Snipe in season
- 36 LBJ, the B
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ Cormorant
- 39 Mourning \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

- 2 American \_\_\_\_\_ Sparrow, not to be confused with a Swamp Sparrow
- 3 Arthur's mentor
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey

- 5 American \_\_\_\_\_, a sign of spring
- 6 Mute \_\_\_\_\_, DEC has plans...
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Towhee or Screech Owl
- 8 Bicknell's \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Night Heron
- 10 American \_\_\_\_\_, runs on water
- 12 Tufted \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 A CBC location, includes part of Mecox Bay
- 15 Not new, \_\_\_\_\_ Ponquogue Bridge
- 16 Blue/Scrub/Gray \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Kingbird, uncommon, but was seen at Jones Beach, Oak Beach and Robert Moses this September
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Nuthatch
- 19 Tufted \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_ Duck, make sure it's not a Tufted
- 24 Common \_\_\_\_\_, in Florida but not in NY
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Island, Riverhead, NY, good Great Horned Owl sightings last winter
- 29 Barred, Great Horned, Screech, Saw Whet...
- 32 Eastern \_\_\_\_\_, says its name, tail bobs
- 33 \_\_\_\_\_ Pond Park, good birding spot in Queens
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_ Warbler, your choice: one with wing bars or the one with a red cap
- 35 Smaller, weaker caw crow
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ bellied Woodpecker



The views from our perch at Hot Dog Beach within sight of the ocean and the bay. The only bird that was close enough to photograph! A Phoebe! 37 species later it was time for a break and lunch.



## The Big Sit or How I Learned You Don't Have to Travel Far to See Birds!

Eileen Schwinn

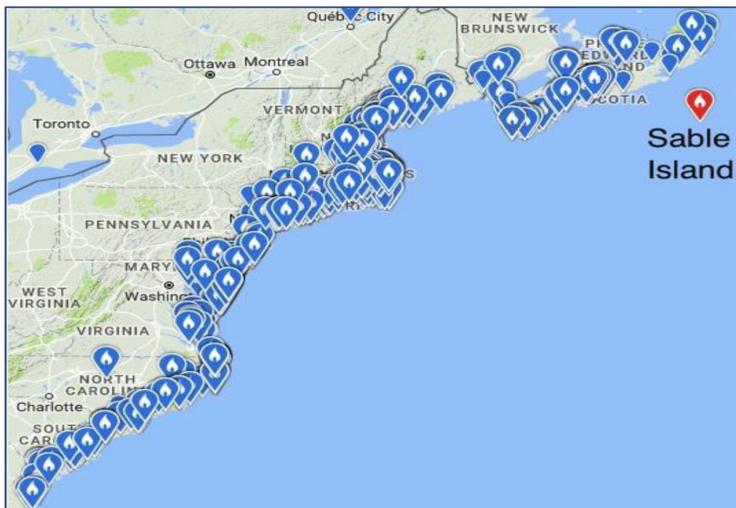
**A** FEW YEARS BACK, a group of birders in New Haven, Connecticut, decided to be really lazy! Their bird club needed a funds, and rather than sponsoring a birdathon, with folks running all over the place for a day, gathering funds and seeing birds, this group decided, "Let's do this the easy way. We'll stay in one spot, and ask for sponsors to pledge money for each species we see. How tough could that be?" Well, that idea really took off, and now, 14 years later, there are Big Sits all over the U.S., and probably all over the world, all taking place on the Saturday of Columbus Day Weekend. Another cog in the wheel of "friendly" birding (non)competition!

My birding pal, Mike, had been kicking the idea around for the last few years, and each time we were out birding, he'd say, "This looks like a GREAT place for a Big Sit!" Well, this year, we decided not to put it off any longer! We chose a newly opened Town of Southampton Beach on Dune Road – Hot Dog Beach. A former private beach with a fancy restaurant (which burnt down one New Year's Day under "unusual" circumstances) and which

the Town purchased but never developed or opened until this past summer. An existing boardwalk allowed pretty good viewing of the ocean, the shoreline, Shinnecock Bay, marshlands, and a pretty open "rustic" parking lot with shrubby growth along the sides. We'd been birding there over the last two or three years, always finding some neat bird on the property. So, armed with binoculars, a scope, chairs, food, and open minds, we arrived at Hot Dog Beach at 7:30 am – shortly after sunrise. The good news was, the weather was just outstanding – light winds, sunny and warm for mid-October. The bad news – the portapotty which had been there all summer, had been removed! But armed with bagels, good optics and being familiar with what to expect, bird-wise, we started Our Big Sit. Personally, my favorite time at any beach is early in the morning – clean air, views, and no noisy people. It must be the birds favorite time, too – we saw most of our species during the first two hours of the morning. By 11:15 am, because it was such a beautiful day, the human beach visitors began to arrive, carting umbrellas, coolers, sand buckets and kids. Each asked what we were doing – and then gave us

the glossy eyeballs non-birding people give when one is told we are counting birds. Mike and I decided to stop the Big Sit at noon – It was getting hot and busy, and I did mention the lack of a portapotty.....

All told, we were there for four-and-a-half hours (which did include some wandering about individually in the parking lot, just to stretch our legs), and we saw 37 species of birds. The highlights were probably Northern Gannet, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Black Scoter, Swamp Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Royal Tern, our First of Season (FOS) Junco and FOS White-throated Sparrow. Nothing earth-shattering, but a pretty nice list of birds for not moving outside of a 14 foot radius circle! OK – so it was really just a Big Half-Sit. But we didn't leave a big Carbon Footprint, and we had a good time. And we will probably do it again next year! A Big Year, Big Day, Big Sit – All equal Big FUN! 🐦



Range of Ipswich Sparrow (ebird)



The Ipswich Sparrow is overall a pale sparrow, a subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow. Keep your eyes out for the banded birds and do, please, report them. This bird is showing the bands in place. Photo Courtesy of The Ipswich Sparrow Project, D. Currie

## Where are they now? The Ipswich Sparrow Project

**S**ABLE ISLAND is a remote, narrow, crescent-shaped sand island, about 26 miles long and less than a mile wide. In 2013 it became a park of the Canadian National Park Reserve. Remote might be an understatement. The population, seems to be one lone researcher, with a few more researchers throughout the year. It is considered part of the district of Halifax, although it is about 200 miles away from the Nova Scotian mainland.

There are frequent heavy fogs in the area due to the contrasting effects of the cold Labrador Current and the warm Gulf Stream: on average there are 127 days out of the year that have at least one hour of fog. This makes Sable Island the foggiest place in the Maritimes.

It is noted as a graveyard for ships. More than 250 wrecks are thought to be around the island.

It is home to wild horses that are thought to be descendants of the horses seized by the British from the Acadians during their expulsion from Nova Scotia in the late 1750s and 1760s. It has the world's largest colony of breeding grey seals, numbering more than 300,000. Roseate Terns also breed here.

It is the only breeding ground to the endemic Ipswich Sparrows. No one is sure where these sparrows go once the

breeding is done. It is thought that they migrate through mainland beaches en route to their wintering grounds in the eastern USA. But, how many sparrows survive the journey and where are they spending their time?

Students from Acadia and Dalhousie Universities have banded 250 sparrows to help answer these questions.

**Now, they need your help finding these banded sparrows on the mainland.**

**When to Look:** October to May

**Where to Look:** Sandy dune beaches where beachgrass grows from Massachusetts to Georgia.

**How to Report:**

Sparrows have three colored bands on the left leg and one colored band on the right leg (over an aluminum band).

Tell us where you saw the sparrow, its band colors (from top to bottom on each leg), and the date. Please include a photo if you can.

◆ **Send an email to:**

ipswichsparrows@gmail.com, or

◆ **Post on the Facebook:**

The Ipswich Sparrow Project,

◆ **Include Ipswich Sparrow** on an ebird checklist and describe the colored bands in the comments.

The sparrows are wearing seven possible color bands: red, green, blue, yellow, black, white, and/or a red/white split band.

This study is supported by Acadia University, Dalhousie University, Sable Island Institute and Parks Canada. 🐦

*Some information contained here is from Daily Mail.*

### **A note from Eileen Schwinn on finding Ipswich Sparrows in our area:**

A sub-race of the Savannah Sparrow, Ipswich Sparrows breed in the summer, on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, and winter along the coastline and dunes of the Atlantic. Slightly larger than Savannah Sparrows (5.5 inches), this white-bellied, streaky chested bird is paler overall, with a noticeably pale gray back. Keep your eyes open along the roadsides of Dune Road and Smiths Point Park – and bring your field guide! Usually seen in a small 3-6 bird flock, and not associating with other sparrows, this LBJ - Little Brown Job - is a frequent visitor. Be sure to report them! You will be helping with tracking the habitat and habits of this delightful winter visitor..



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

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## Wind Turbines, Another Assault on the Oceans

*In the July/August issue of *The Osprey* we ran a piece in favor of Wind Turbines. This expresses a different point of view from environmentalist and long time contributor to *The Osprey*.*

**Larry Penny**

THERE IS A MIGHTY CABAL rolling down the political aisles in the name of "Offshore Wind Power", i.e., electricity from wind driving turbines reaching 600 feet or more into the sky, 15 to 20 miles from shore embedded in the deep sediments of the Atlantic Ocean. Starting with the five already in operation off Block Island, in the next ten years those five may be joined by as many as 300 more stretching from Montauk to New Jersey, all in the name of decreasing the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere and oceans each day. Funny, isn't it, the idea of desecrating the ocean in order to save it from acidification.

One of the arguments for this not so cheap form of clean energy is that birds which are killed by the thousands each year by land based wind turbines don't fly that far out to sea. Then why do we call more than 500 species of the world's

birds pelagic? Albatrosses, fulmars, gannets, murrelets, auklets, boobies, and a host of others are capable of long oceanic flights and derive almost all of their food from the seas, close to shore or far from it. The only difference between the counts of birds lost to the ocean turbine blades and those installed on land, is that you can count the fatalities on the ground, but those killed in the ocean immediately become food for marine sharks and bony fishes.

Such offshore wind farms represent just another kind of European invasion of the New World. Yes, the waters between Great Britain and the rest of Europe are plied with wind turbines and have been so for years and years. In fact Europe's coastline is quickly running out of space to accommodate many more of them, and so why not turn to North America's coast, they represent a wide-open territory. Not, only will Europe benefit greatly from the sale of the energy generated here, but European factories that manufacture almost all of the offshore wind turbines and replacement parts, will also prosper.

It's not only marine birds that will take a hit, it's marine mammals, fish, and sea turtles that will be negatively affected.

Most of those species are older than *Homo sapiens*, and as populations have spent thousands of years plying the seas, but not haphazardly, sea routes and territories are in their genes and vice-versa. World wars, especially the last one, displaced many, many sea creatures. Oil rigs and oil spills came next. Now more than three-quarters of a century later, they are reestablishing themselves in their old haunts in the absence of war and oil rigs, only to be threatened by another sea war of sorts, the installation of hundreds, if not thousands, of wind turbines. What are they to do?

Rather than plunge into our oceans, already in trouble, why not greatly increase solar power, which is just as clean and carbon-free, as well as much cheaper, because it is installed on land where it can be easily maintained and upgraded.

The birds, fish, marine mammals and other animal species will applaud loudly, if we do! 🐦

*Wind Turbines off Block Island as seen from Montauk, without binoculars or a long lens on the camera they are almost invisible.*

*The only difference between the counts of birds lost to the ocean turbine blades and those installed on land, is that you can count the fatalities on the ground, but those killed in the ocean immediately become food for marine sharks and other fish.*



# The **OSPREY**

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