



The OSPREY

March/April 2009 — Vol. XXXIV No. 2

Nature Programs

Monday, March 2, 2009 Nature Program

Rivers of Sand – Exploring Barrier Islands by The Joy Foundation for Ecological Education and Research. A video presentation and subsequent discussion.

Beautifully filmed, *Rivers of Sand* is a kaleidoscope of birds and shells, flowers and wildlife, revealing the diversity of life inhabiting the barrier islands of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The program shows dunes being created and examines the futility of trying to stop the shifting sands.

Monday, April 6, 2009 Nature Program

The Fauna and Flora of Kruger National Park,

This exquisite park is located in the Mpumalanga Province in eastern South Africa.
By Barbara McGarry



Photos taken at Kruger National Park
by Barbara McGarry

Nature programs and membership meetings are held the first Monday of every month (except January) at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. **These free programs are open to all.** (*Directions are on our website.*)

7:15 pm: Nature Chat, 7:30 pm: Chapter News, 8:00 pm: Speaker

Field Trips

Saturday, March 7, 2009

MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE, Wantagh and Ocean Parkway to West End of Jones Beach

Leader: John McNeil

By this time, the earliest of the north-bound spring migrants will have already arrived in the area. We can expect to find some of these (Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles, Cowbirds and Killdeer) on this trip. Mostly, however, we will see birds that have wintered on the island. Among these, we are especially hoping to find such species as Red-necked Grebe, Eurasian Widgeon, Redhead, Harlequin Duck and Purple Sandpiper. Meet in the east end of the parking lot at the old

Home Depot Store along Sunrise Highway at Route 112 in Patchogue. We will leave the parking lot at 7:30 am. Bring a lunch as we will not return until around 5 pm. The rain date for this trip will be the next Saturday, March 14th.

For more details, contact your trip leader John McNeil at 631.281.2623 at home or on the day of the field trip, mobile telephone is 631.219.8947.

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Leader: MaryLaura Lamont

THE FAR EAST—ORIENT POINT

Join us as we travel to various birding spots along the North Fork of Long Island out to Orient Pt., the far east of Long Is-

land. We will stop at Marratooka Lake, areas along Peconic Bay Blvd., the East Marion Causeway, Orient Beach State Park, and the day will end at Orient Pt. County Park.

Some species sighted on this trip the last few years have been Common Eider, Goldeneye, Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Wood duck, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Harrier, and Horned lark. Meet in the parking lot of the County Center Buildings in Riverhead on Co. Rd. 51 at 8:00 am. Call trip leader MaryLaura Lamont at 631.722.5542 for more info.

FROM THE FIELD.

Wintering Eagles

John McNeil

Tom Moran, one of our newest Directors, and myself had a fantastic day of Eagle watching along the Hudson River from the Bear Mountain Bridge down along Route 9 to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Before I left my house at 5:30 am, I printed out an alert from the New York Birding listserv of most recent sightings of birds in our area. While reading these reports in my car waiting for any birders to arrive, I was formulating a variety of options. One stuck out like a sore thumb. Tom was the only other hardy soul to get up this early and brave the chill, as in the good-old-times, when many of us would gather in our cars to venture to birding spots far away.

I offered Tom several options, one was to make the planned three-hour trip to Port Jervis, another was to bird all of eastern Suffolk County, or the one we both thought was the greatest, was to drive up the Hudson River to see what this "Hudson River Eagle Fest 2009" was all about. This Eaglefest was sponsored by TeaTown Lake Reservation Nature Preserve & Education Center at the Croton Point Park. The drive was only an hour and a half

from Patchogue which was another selling point.

After stopping at Starbucks for some liquid refreshments to carry us through this assault, we arrived at

Croton Point Park about 8:30 am, just before the opening of the heated tents and presentations. We were then told that a bird walk was starting just outside the sign-in tent, so Tom and I joined in and we were not disappointed. Right off the bat we got excellent views of an adult and several juvenile Bald Eagles sitting on the ice on the Hudson and a silhouette of one perching in a tree.

We were told of a bus tour, which was sold out, but we did get an excellent touring map of all the viewing points along the Hudson River. Some of these points were manned by Audubon Society volunteers with spotting telescopes and a guide, while others were unmanned. I was impressed.

Tom and I headed out to one of the viewing spots at a boat ramp, where they had a tent with HOT liquid refreshments, if we chose to partake, but Tom and I were more interested in viewing the full adult male Bald Eagle perching in the trees right in front of us. We also had a very close fly over of several juveniles, and also noted in the open waters in front of us, many Canada Geese, Common Mergansers, Ring-neck Ducks, and some Great Cormorants sitting on the boat navigation aids.

With Tom's exceptional map reading skills and my most recent updated Magellan Maestro GPS, we headed to the Bear Mountain Bridge and worked our way down on Route 9 to the different eagle viewing areas. While driving north on Route 9, an Eastern Blue Bird and later a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew right in front of the car.

As Tom and I visited the different viewing areas we were treated to



many views of Bald Eagles in different phases, but one viewing area presented a challenge to us. We were told about the Croton Dam area but there were no written directions given on the map and we were given sketchy verbal directions. After several wrong roads we finally arrived and we were not disappointed. Someone had placed a deer carcass on the frozen water. About 6 to 8 juveniles and one adult were feeding on the deer. I did try to "digiscope" some pictures (placing my camera lens to the eye piece of my spotting scope) and I was able to get some pretty good shots.

It was about 2:30 in the afternoon and Tom and I decided to get some fuel for our bodies, so we headed to the nearest fast food joint that we could find. After that, we birded down the Hudson some more before heading home. I delivered Tom to his car about 4:00 pm and I was resting on my recliner at 4:30 pm taking a nap before my wife got home.

Next year, now that I know of this festival, it will be one of our regular field trips since it is only an hour and half drive.

In total, we observed 26 Bald Eagles in various phases of development and other species of birds mentioned in this article. It was a goods day birding.



Photos: John McNeil

Lakes around Patchogue



Sally Newbert

A group gathered at Swan Lake in Patchogue on January 24th where seven species of ducks were observed, then went on to Roe Boulevard to check on the Pintails.

Membership Corner

John McNeil

The Spring Migration is almost upon us and the birding has just begun. So...if I might make a good suggestion, before you head out check Dianne Taggart's web page, "libirding.com." This site is devoted to various birding activities & bird watching on Long Island. The "sighting and reports" is updated almost daily. Reports are submitted by local birders making the rounds to local hot spots. You never know, one of those hot spots might be in your area and being armed with this information, you may find that great bird to add to your viewing pleasure.

Bird watching is a great hobby that will be with you for the rest of your life, even if you do not get out as much as you would like. You always spot something of interest wherever you go.

The Spring Migrations will be here soon so dust off the binoculars, get out the bird book, call some friends and head out and get some exercise.

Also, I would like to remind each member to check his or her mailing label for your membership expiration date. Please renew when you notice that your membership has lapsed. I will not be sending out renewal notices because of the expense that is incurred and what we receive in return does not cover the mailing cost. I rely on your honesty to renew when you see that your membership has expired...and to those members who renewed these past few months, thank you for your continued membership support.



Earth Day

Saturday April 18

Celebrate Earth Day at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge, Saturday April 18, from 11 am to 4 pm rain or shine. ELIAS and the QWR have teamed up once again to provide a fun-filled day of environmental awareness activities for all ages.

Join us for guided nature walks, crafts, games for children, live animal demonstrations, self-guided kayaking on Old Ice Pond and displays by environmental organizations. Everyone is welcome.

Admission is free.

Kaler's Pond Nature Center, programs at The Center Moriches Library

Jay Kuhlman

Sunday, March 22, 1:30 to 3 pm
Shore Bird I D

Learn to identify the birds found locally in warm weather.

Sunday, April 19, 1:30 to 3 pm
Attracting birds, Butterflies and Beyond to your garden.

Saturday, April 25, 1:30 to 4 pm
Arbor/Earth Day at the nature center. Music, programs, exhibits in the trailside museum, walk and crafts.

There will be spring and summer programs, as well as the nature center being open. More details can be found at the web site.

Come and enjoy the native plants around the center starting to bloom in April.



Turning of the Tides

Tyler Borsack
Environmental Technician
Town of East Hampton

As 2009 begins and we start to look forward to, and begin preparing for, the summer breeding season, I inevitably look back at last year and evaluate what went well and what could be improved upon. East Hampton saw a good year for the Piping Plovers, as well as our tern populations with 34 pairs that produced 58 fledges, a productivity of 1.71, on average with years past. Good numbers, considering we lost nearly all nests early in the season with an early May storm, as did many across Long Island, New Jersey, and New England.

However, this year had a different feel than in years past. Not only was I more involved with the program, but overall the season seemed to be more relaxed and relations with the public seemed better. In previous years, we have had some notorious run-ins with the public which caught the attention of periodicals such as the New York Times. As we all know, when dealing with conservation, public relations can be the biggest hurdle. This season, we ran the program with the idea of finding where we can better compromise and be more efficient. It seems to have paid off with no ill effect to the conservation. We were able to spend our time concerned with the birds and less on "problems". As years go on the plovers are generally becoming more accepted as part of summer life. Our ultimate goal is to run the program as efficiently and with as little impact to both the public and the birds as possible. It is, naturally, easier on us when we have less to be concerned about and thus less on our plates.

Nevertheless, 2008 is behind us, and we must look forward to another season ahead. The plovers are happily spending the winter months in the warm south, while we spend the time doing other activities and preparing for another season filled with birds, tourists, and more sand in my shoes than I want to think about. We have a lot of time to think about what might be this year. We all hope for a good

year, but we have come to expect the unexpected. Our job is to try to understand and control something that is uncontrollable. We do our best but every year things happen that surprise us, no matter how hard we try. There are of course aspects that we can control; however, no matter how hard we work, we can't always control everything.

What about those elements we can't control? 2009 brings us a new President, and with that the possibility of new policies on global warming. But no matter who is in charge of what, damage has already been done; sea levels rise and increased number/severity of storms are a real, present,

and future threat. As local conservationists, we can only do so much to protect the species that are placed under our care. We must trust our leaders to help in the areas that we have no influence over. So we continue onward in our efforts to protect those that can't protect themselves. No matter what we do, there will always be that early May storm waiting to take us by surprise. So we carry on, doing our best to, at the very least, give them a chance.



Volunteers Needed to Monitor Piping Plovers

Volunteers are needed to assist with Piping Plover monitoring and conservation efforts.

As the winter chill subsides, it is time to once again start preparing for the return of the Piping Plover to our Long Island beaches. While the calendar start of the official monitoring season is in April, preparations for the arrival of our endangered beach-nesting birds have already begun. In order to carry out the protective measures and monitoring efforts needed to ensure these birds have a safe nesting season, volunteers are needed to assist with conservation activities.

The Town of Southampton Trustees' Threatened and Endangered Species Program is in need of some dedicated volunteers to assist with plover and tern monitoring for the 2009 season. With over 14 miles of ocean beach and 16 bay sites, help is needed at all ocean beaches located within Southampton Village and Sag Harbor as well as bay beaches located in Hampton Bays and North Sea. For more information on how you can volunteer with the program, please contact

Dawn Ver Hague at 631-287-5717 or DVerHague@southamptontownny.gov.

Help is also needed with early season monitoring (April 1st – Memorial Day weekend) of beach-nesting bird activity at state parks across Long Island including Jones Beach, Caumsett, Gilgo, Robert Moses, Sunken Meadow, Orient Beach, and Montauk. Volunteer opportunities also include pre-fencing of traditional nesting areas at Jones Beach on March 29th and protection of nesting areas during large public events on Memorial Day weekend and Independence Day weekend, also at Jones Beach. For more information on how you can volunteer with these efforts, please contact Annie McIntyre at Annie.McIntyre@oprhp.state.ny.us or Carolyn Spilman at 631-477-6456 or cspilman@audubon.org.

To learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities please visit http://ny.audubon.org/BirdSci_Coastal-BirdConservation.html for updated information.



EPCAL Heating Up, Again

As you probably know Eastern Long Island Audubon is a member of a coalition of environmental groups opposed to the dramatic development at, EPCAL (Enterprise Park at Calverton).

Starting in February there are a variety of filing deadlines for the developers to meet. Keep an eye on your local papers for updates.

In the meantime Riverhead is trying to change a few of the zoning laws that would be in the developers' favor.

Pine Barrens Overlay district zone change – The Town of Riverhead has proposed a zone change for EPCAL which delineates open space and developable areas. This map includes very little of the rare grassland habitat as open space, and does not account for the endangered species present or the Habitat Conservation Plans that the NYS DEC is currently developing for the site. Three different representatives of the Coalition spoke in opposition to this at the hearing, and a letter opposing this zone change on behalf of the entire Coalition was presented to the Town Board.

Peconic River would lose protection Riverhead would like to change the designation of the Peconic River from Wild and Scenic to a Community River which would offer less protection.

NYS Open Space Conservation Plan Thanks to Group for the East End's efforts the latest draft of the NYS Open Space Plan includes the Calverton Grasslands. However, the Town of Riverhead is currently fighting to have this area removed from the plan before it is finalized.

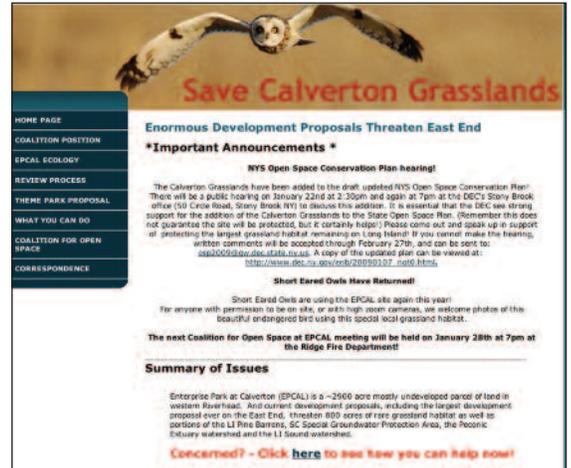
Legal Issues – Recently the Riverhead Town Board made a motion that the Pine Barrens Commission withdraw is appeal of Judge Baisley's decision (which essentially shuts the Pine Barrens Commission out of reviewing any development that can be deemed "economic development" within the Pine Barrens.) This is a major issue in which we strongly support the ap-

peal. This motion was withdrawn, and it seems that the appeal will move forward.

The coalition would like to thank all those who have contributed to the EPCAL fund so far, and would like to ask people to donate to the EPCAL Fund.

A private donor has provided a generous matching grant to the EPCAL Fund of \$50,000. So far a little over \$10,000 has been raised. With the private matching grant this means we now have \$20,000 in the EPCAL Fund. This matching grant is a great fundraising tool, because for every dollar raised, the Fund will receive two!

If you would like to contribute there is a link on the ELIAS website to: www.CalvertonGrasslands.org. This website provides the background, details of the coalition and an option for people to donate online to the EPCAL Fund. You may also donate by sending a personal check in the mail to:



Group for the East End*

P.O. Box 1792
Southold, NY 11971
(631) 765-6450, ext. 212

Please include "EPCAL" on the notes line of your check.

Check the web site
www.CalvertonGrasslands.org
for updates and background.

EPCAL FUND

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the EPCAL Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please make check payable to:

Group for the East End
P.O. Box 1792
Southold, NY 11971

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Please include "EPCAL" on the notes line of your check.

Watching Mammals in North America's Serengeti

Steve Biasetti

Last August we took a family trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. It had been quite a while since my last visits in 1989 and 1990;



entrance. We may have broken the record for slowest travel time between these two locations. Distractions abounded, including a sub-adult Bald Eagle along Madison Creek, an extremely photogenic bull Elk, a lone Bison near the Norris Geyser Basin, bubbling hot springs, steaming hillsides, and waterfalls.

With such an introduction to the park, we were too keyed up to give in to a restful evening. At the Mammoth Visitor Center, we heard that

heard about in Hayden Valley, were the sources of fantastic stories throughout the week starring grizzly bears and wolves.

So after dinner we headed east. Distractions continued: more waterfalls, more Elk, a petrified tree, Sandhill Cranes, Mule Deer and Moose with great racks of antlers. We arrived at the bison-carcass traffic jam a half-hour before sunset, prime time for watching wildlife. Alas, we were too late: "A big grizzly was feeding for a while, but he left an hour ago". Oh well. It was our first day in the park (and not a bad one at that!). We would have eight more days in northwest Wyoming, plenty of time to track down a bear or two.

Our next few days focused on the earth sciences. We toured the otherworldly geothermal features at Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful Geyser Basin, witnessed breathtaking waterfalls along Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, took part in some impromptu roadside rock climbing, and walked the windy shores of Yellowstone Lake.

Meanwhile, wildlife was never too far from our eyes and ears. Each morning we listened to the dawn yips and howls of Coyotes. Just north of Hayden Valley, a roadside Coyote paid no attention to its audience as it stalked and pounced upon rodent prey. From early evening to early morning, dozens of Elk cows and calves grazed and bedded down on the manicured lawns around our hotel. Among the smaller mammals, a pair of Uinta Ground Squirrels crossed our paths near

for my wife and son, the trip was their first time to northwest Wyoming. This latest encounter reinforced what I had learned two decades ago.

There's no better place in North America to view large land mammals interacting with each other in their natural habitats.

On our first day, soon after entering Yellowstone at its west entrance, we arrived at our initial wildlife-related traffic jam. In the following days we learned that the associated brake lights and stopped cars usually meant an exciting wildlife-viewing opportunity beckoned up ahead. This first time, our welcoming party was a small herd of Elk, roughly 25 cows and calves wading in a creek and resting on its shore.

After a long while of ogling and photographing the herd, we continued on our way. Our destination, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in the northwest part of the park, was about 50 miles from the west



a bison carcass in Lamar Valley (about 30 miles to the east) had been providing entertainment of the "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" variety. A bison-sized carcass attracts a variety of predators and scavengers. This Lamar Valley carcass, and a subsequent one that we



the hotel, Mountain Cottontails sought refuge under a boardwalk, a Yellow-bellied Marmot snoozed on a boulder near Grand Geyser, and a scampering Red Squirrel put on a show on the crowded second-floor patio of the Old Faithful Inn.

We spotted Bison on all five days in Yellowstone. Our counts were in the hundreds on several days, sometimes with large herds near or even on the road. It's a unique experience to have a one-ton beast lumber within ten feet of your car. Bison behaviors and interactions were fascinating to observe. Loud grunting and bellowing could be heard, individuals rolled on their sides to dust bathe, large bulls tried to lead cows away from the others, and Brown-headed Cowbirds picked at the backs of a lucky few. The most memorable sight, however, was a herd of about two-dozen animals – including a few calves – swimming in a tight pack across the Yellowstone River, a distance exceeding one hundred yards.

On one day we explored the entire northern part of the park, from Gardiner (North entrance) to Cooke City (Northeast entrance). The day's plan was to search for wildlife in Lamar Valley. First stop was the bison carcass of the first evening. We were not too late this time. Oblivious to its roadside audience a quarter-mile away, an adult-sized Grizzly Bear was feeding on the carcass. We watched

the large omnivore for quite a while, and followed in parallel from the road when the bruin eventually had its fill and moseyed on its way. In a trip chock full of wonders for my son, seeing a Grizzly Bear was the top thrill!

Driving a few miles eastward, a couple of "somethings" in the distance caught my eye, so we pulled over. Scanning with binoculars and spotting scope, the "somethings" became a herd of Bison to the southeast, a lone Bison on a hill to the southwest, and a single Pronghorn Antelope at the base of the hill. The antelope appeared to be nervous. Searching by spotting scope I discovered the source of its nervousness: a Gray Wolf. Over the next forty-five minutes we watched the action play out, including the wolf's short chase of a herd of antelope. As Pronghorn Antelopes are the fastest land mammals of North America, the chase was half-hearted and unsuccessful, but exciting to witness nonetheless. Before the day's journey was completed, we encountered at least 500 Bison, roughly 50 Pronghorn Antelope, and a second Gray Wolf – this one with black fur.

The trip's remaining three days were spent in Grand Teton National Park, where the furry sights continued without interruption. During a wonderful hike from Jenny Lake to Hidden Falls and Inspi-

ration Point, we were accompanied the entire way by inquisitive Red Squirrels and Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrels. Earlier that day a Black Bear fed on berries along a creek, seemingly oblivious to the tourists watching it from across the water just thirty yards away. Later the same day, a Long-tailed Weasel scampered to the road median and back to safety.

A visit to scenic Oxbow Bend, with Mount Moran fully reflected on the still waters, revealed a swimming Muskrat and four Moose, including one mother with its young calf. On our last day, we floated on a raft down the Snake River. A pair of River Otters surfaced and dove near the boat and, as day began fading to night, Beaver became more and more active, our sight count nearing double figures.

As this extraordinary trip came to its end, I took stock of all that we experienced. Our family trip was special in so many ways, from stunning mountain scenery, to invigorating hikes, to geologic wonders, to diverse birds and butterflies. But if I were required to choose one aspect that overshadowed the rest, it was the unbelievable variety of land mammals that we encountered in northwest Wyoming.



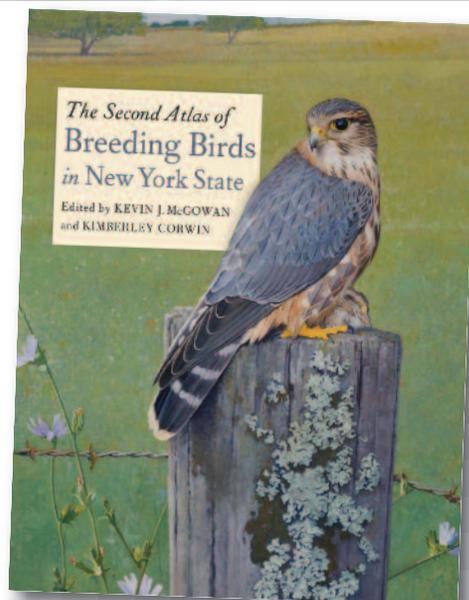
New Environmental Study: Over Half of New York State's Birds Have Seen Dramatic Population Changes Since 1980

Ithaca, NY – A new atlas on the birds of New York reveals that during the past two decades over half of New York State's bird populations have seen dramatic changes in their distributions, with 70 species experiencing significant increases, 58 species experiencing serious declines, and 125 species maintaining relative stability. Among the birds showing the largest increases in New York State are Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Common Raven, Turkey Vulture, and Merlin. Those showing the largest decreases are Henslow's Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, and Canada Warbler. Resident woodland birds showed the greatest increases as a group, and grassland birds showed the greatest declines.

These new findings, published in January by Cornell University Press in *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, are the result of over 140,000 hours in the field by nearly 1,200 volunteers across New York State. The atlas, edited by two prominent figures in the field, ornitholo-

gist Kevin J. McGowan of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and wildlife biologist Kimberley Corwin of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), was initiated by the New York State Ornithological Association and implemented by the NYSDEC, which provided the funding, management personnel, oversight, direction, and data capture and management. The majority of the funding came from the state tax check-off program, "Return a Gift to Wildlife."

"This new atlas was truly an incredible team effort by the citizens of New York," said Kevin J. McGowan. "From those who funded it with small donations via their tax returns to the impressive volunteers who collected the data, the atlas is an inspired monument to the dedication and love New Yorkers have for their wildlife." Kimberley Corwin added "and what's more, New Yorkers have considerably helped bird populations by planting trees and shrubs that provide food and cover, supporting conservation organizations, and participating in cutting-edge programs such as the Landowner Incentive Program, which we think is outstanding."



The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State will be an invaluable resource for the DEC and other state agencies involved in land management and conservation, as well as counties and towns who make management decisions on smaller scales. Data will also be used at the national level by federal agencies, non-governmental agencies such as the NY Natural Heritage Program and Audubon, as well as universities across the country.



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BIRDWATCHER'S
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Spring Migration Table

This table is intended as a guide to the arrival of spring migrants. From Feb. through mid-April species often arrive a week or two earlier or later than the indicated dates. By the end of April arrivals are often predictable to within a few days.

Feb 21 - 28

Common Grackle*
Canada Goose*
Red-winged Blackbird*

Fish Crow*
Water Pipit
E. Meadowlark*
Br-headed Cowbird
Spotted Sandpiper

Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
White-thr Sparrow*
Swamp Sparrow

Semipalmated Plover
Whimbrel
Solitary Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin

Hooded Warbler
Bobolink
Orchard Oriole
Northern Oriole
Scarlet Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

March 1 - 10

Pied-billed Grebe*
Wood Duck
Amer. Woodcock
Killdeer"
Robin
E. Bluebird
Rusty Blackbird
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow*

March 21 - 31
Dble-crested Cormorant
Osprey
Laughing Gull
Greater-Yellowlegs
Tree Swallow
Golden-cr Kinglet
Savannah Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Field Sparrow

April 11 - 20
Green Heron
Snowy Egret
Yell-cr Night Heron
Broad-winged Hawk
Clapper Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
Upland Sandpiper
Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Purple Martin

Semipalmated Sandpiper
Whip-poor-will
Chimney Swift
Bank Swallow
Cliff Sparrow
House Wren
Brown Thrasher
Solitary Vireo
Black & White Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Black-thr Green Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Grasshopper Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow

May 11 - 20
Red Knot
White-rumped Sandpiper
Roseate Tern
Black Skimmer
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Common Nighthawk
Eastern Wood Pewee
Swainson's Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Cedar Waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo
Tennessee Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpool Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Indigo Bunting
White-crowned Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow

March 11 - 20

Gannet
Bl-cr Night Heron
Snow Goose
Amer Oystercatcher
Piping Plover
Common Snipe*
Mourning Dove*
Belted Kingfisher*
Common Flicker*
E. Phoebe

April 1 - 10
Great Blue Heron*
Great Egret
Amer. Bittern
Blue-winged Teal
Merlin
Pectoral Sandpiper
Yellow-belly Sapsucker
Brown Creeper
Ruby-cr Kinglet

April 21 - 30
Little Blue Heron
Common Gallinule
Black-bellied Plover

May 1 - 10
Least Bittern
Ruddy Turnstone
Willet
Short-billed Dowitcher
Least Tern
Common Tern
Ruby-thr Hummingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Great C'd Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Catbird
Wood Thrush
Veery
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-thr Blue Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Yellowthroat
American Redstart

May 21 - 31
Sooty Shearwater
Wilson's Petrel
Black Tern
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Mourning Warbler

**Species known to winter on Long Island. It is almost impossible to distinguish these wintering birds from spring arrivals.*

Chapter Renewal & Membership

For \$15 a year, you will receive 6 copies of this newsletter. You will also be supporting our local education and conservation activities. (Members of National Audubon who are not chapter members receive one copy of this newsletter per year.)

This is a Renewal New Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Make Check payable to:
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society

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



Feeder Survey

Brian O’Keeffe

The Survey will be conducted the 1st week of the month starting on Sunday and ending the following Sunday.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FEEDER SURVEY

- Define an area containing feeders that you can see all at once from a window. The area should be one you glance at frequently during your daily routine.
- Don’t include birds seen off premises.
- Predators perching in or swooping through the count area (not just flying over) may be counted if you feel that they were attracted by the birds at the feeder.
- Record the largest number of each species that you see in your count area during the eight-day count period.
- Do not add counts from previous days together. Be specific with the species name, e.g. we can’t use just the name Sparrow, Blackbird or Gull.
- At the end of the count period, record your final tallies and send in the form immediately.

Personal observations and comments are welcome as are suggestions to improve the surveys and reports.



Well, everybody’s gotta eat!

Survey Dates: March 1 through March 7

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

- _____ Mourning Dove
- _____ Northern Cardinal
- _____ Blue Jay
- _____ House Finch
- _____ Black-capped Chickadee
- _____ Tufted Titmouse
- _____ Downy Woodpecker
- _____ White-throated Sparrow
- _____ Dark-eyed Junco
- _____ House Sparrow
- _____ White-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Song Sparrow
- _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- _____ American Crow
- _____ European Starling
- _____ Common Grackle
- _____ Carolina Wren
- _____ Northern Mockingbird
- _____ American Goldfinch
- _____ Red-winged Blackbird
- _____ Hairy Woodpecker
- _____ Common Flicker
- _____ Rufous-sided Towhee
- _____ American Robin
- _____ Brown-headed Cowbird
- _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- _____ Rock Dove (pigeon)
- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Other _____

Please mail immediately after each survey period to:

Brian O’Keeffe,
12 Union Ave.,
Center Moriches, NY 11934.

Or to send via the internet, go to:
easternlongislandaudubonsociety.org and

- 1) Click on Chapter Projects
- 2) Click on Feeder Statistics
- 3) Click on To submit via the internet, etc.

Survey Dates: April 5 through April 11

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

- _____ Mourning Dove
- _____ Northern Cardinal
- _____ Blue Jay
- _____ House Finch
- _____ Black-capped Chickadee
- _____ Tufted Titmouse
- _____ Downy Woodpecker
- _____ White-throated Sparrow
- _____ Dark-eyed Junco
- _____ House Sparrow
- _____ White-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Song Sparrow
- _____ Red-bellied Woodpecker
- _____ American Crow
- _____ European Starling
- _____ Common Grackle
- _____ Carolina Wren
- _____ Northern Mockingbird
- _____ American Goldfinch
- _____ Red-winged Blackbird
- _____ Hairy Woodpecker
- _____ Common Flicker
- _____ Rufous-sided Towhee
- _____ American Robin
- _____ Brown-headed Cowbird
- _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- _____ Rock Dove (pigeon)
- _____ Gray Catbird
- _____ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ Other _____

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THE OSPREY

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Mark Your Calendars!**March**

Monday, March 2	Nature Program: <i>Rivers of Sand</i>	See page 1
Saturday, March 7	Field Trip: Massapequa Preserve	See page 1
Sunday, March 22	Lecture, CM Library, Shorebird ID	See page 3

April

Saturday, April 4	Field Trip: Orient Point	See page 1
Monday, April 6	Nature Program: Kruger National Park	See page 1
Saturday, April 18	Earth Day at Quogue Wildlife Refuge	See page 3
Sunday, April 19	Lecture, CM Library, Attracting Birds...	See page 3
Saturday, April 25	Kaler's Pond Arbor/Earth Day Celebration	See page 3

Special note: We would like to explore the possibility of setting up car pools for the field trips and meetings. If you would like to be a driver, rider or organizer, please all John McNeil.

**Birdathon is coming up on May 9th.
The funds raised will be donated to
The EPCAL Fund. Get your teams ready!**

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