



# The OSPREY

March/April, 2007 – Volume XXXVII No. 2

## Pleasant Surprises

Eileen Schwinn

The end of October found me in Eberbach, Germany. Twenty miles from Heidelberg, this seven hundred and fifty-five year old town is located along the meandering Neckar River and is surrounded by low Catskill-size mountains.

My husband, Hans, and I have been visitors to Eberbach on almost a yearly basis since 1971. In the past, my binoculars have been packed, but since Hans isn't as enthusiastic about the birds as I am, and the German weather is predictably rainy and generally miserable during our visits, they weren't used very often. This year, not only did I pack the binoculars, but I brought along a copy of the terrific Princeton Field Guide, *The Birds of Europe*, published in 1999, which I borrowed from a fellow ELIAS member. The guide has maps, illustrations, and probably the most beautifully detailed descriptions I have ever read.

Much to our surprise this year, we were lucky enough to have 70 - 75 degree sunny days for our entire vacation. Perfect weather for the non-birder and me.

In general, Germans do not feed birds. There were no feeders in backyards or on balconies, and bird clubs, at least where we were, are nonexistent. In all fairness, the fear of bird flu has hit Germany. But many backyards contain fruit trees, gardens, and shrubs, so the birds eat pretty well without human help.

Our daily walks to and from town along the river provided an excellent opportunity to see the common birds known to every school child, but new to me. Signs were posted along the riverside explaining which birds were "local" inhabitants, and I needed help with translations.

I asked my husband what type of bird a Zilpzalp was (also known as a Weidenlaubsänger), an exercise in futility for both of us. He knew Zaunkoenig meant fence king, but didn't know the bird is actually our winter wren, and Europe's only wren.

I purchased a German language birding book with maps,

pictures, and Latin names to help in my identification. I used the German book as my "Rosetta Stone," finding Latin names the common link between both field guides.

The vacation was the best, and among other birds, I added the following to my life list: grey heron, wood pigeon, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, robin (very different from our American robin), willow warbler, great tit, blue tit, long-tailed tit, magpie, and chaffinch.

Continued on page 5

## Nature Programs

Bob Adamo

Join us for nature programs and membership meetings at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. (Directions are on our website.) Everyone is welcome.

7:15 PM – Nature Chat  
7:30 PM – Chapter News  
8:00 PM – Speaker

**Monday March 5**  
**THE ART OF FRAMING**  
**Judie Lee Almer**

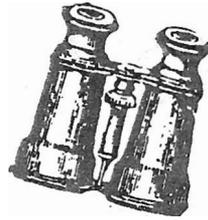


Judie is a noted artist, teacher, framer, and restorer. She will display various samples of frames and mats and will discuss the art of framing, especially for the do-it-yourself individual. Please feel free to bring in one or two photos or prints and get some creative input.

**Monday April 5**  
**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY – ARE YOU**  
**READY TO COMPETE?**  
**John Brokos**

We are pleased to have the noted nature photographer John Brokos back with us. His presentation will be a showcase mix of pictorial and nature material.

## Field Trips



### Patchogue Lakes Saturday, March 3

We will meet Karen Lannigan and Dianne Taggart at 9:30 AM at the Patchogue Home Depot in the west parking lot. From there, we will carpool to Swan Lake and other spots for winter waterfowl. Binoculars are a must, and scopes would be helpful. Prepare to be out for several hours. Heavy rain or snow cancels the trip. If in doubt, call Karen at 369-1736 or Dianne at 395-5891.

### North Fork to Orient Point Saturday, April 7

Early spring is a great time for birding on the North Fork. Our April field trip will highlight the return of local nesters such as Osprey as well as migrating shorebirds and songbirds.

We will meet at the Riverhead County Center parking lot (on County Road 51) at 8 AM and visit a few spots along the way to Orient Point. We plan to return to Riverhead around noon. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Wear comfortable shoes, and pack lunch, snacks, and beverages. Binoculars are essential. Spotting scopes can be helpful. If you have questions, call Mary Laura Lamont at 722-5542.

If you have not attended one of our field trips, make this your first! Beginners are welcome.

## Spring Fever

A Limerick by Beth Gustin

Old Man Winter can be quite unkind  
Who's to blame us if spring's on our minds?

Though the March winds will blow  
Soon the crocus will show

And the warblers are not far behind!

## Report from the Field — Beth Gustin

Sunny skies, strong winds, and a few horned larks greeted birders on the December field trip to Smith Point and the William Floyd Estate. Floats of brant and black scoters were seen on the ocean as northern gannet and common loons flew by. A northern harrier was observed hunting over the dunes. Long-tailed duck, horned grebe, hooded merganser, and bufflehead were among the species seen on the bay.

The woods and fields at the William Floyd Estate were fairly quiet, although some nice sightings occurred: belted kingfisher, winter wren, brown creeper, and hermit thrush. Trip leader Mary Laura Lamont also treated the participants to a quick but very interesting and enjoyable tour of the estate buildings. The 39 species seen on this trip are listed below:

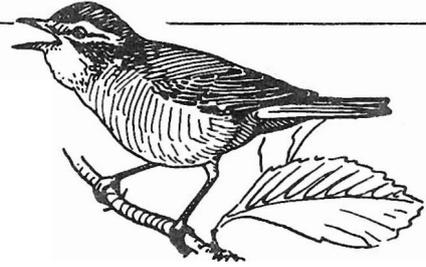
Common loon	Horned grebe
Northern gannet	Double-crested cormorant
Great Blue Heron	Mute swan
Canada goose	Brant
Mallard	Black scoter
Long-tailed duck	Bufflehead
Hooded merganser	Northern harrier
Red-tailed hawk	Killdeer
Herring gull	Great black-backed gull
Rock pigeon	Belted kingfisher
Red-bellied woodpecker	Northern flicker
Blue jay	American crow
Horned lark	Tufted titmouse
Black-capped chickadee	Brown creeper
Carolina wren	Winter wren
Golden-crowned kinglet	Hermit thrush
Northern mockingbird	Yellow-rumped warbler
American tree sparrow	White-throated sparrow
Dark-eyed junco	Northern cardinal
American goldfinch	



Horned Grebe

# Birdathon - May 12<sup>th</sup>

## Save the Date!



Welcome to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society's twenty-third annual Big Day of Birding. Set for May 12<sup>th</sup>, this event will pit any and all birdwatchers against the elements – sun, wind, rain, sleep (or lack thereof) in an effort to count as many bird species as possible within a 24 hour period.

**Why do we do this? Just for fun? Well partly – after all it is a lot of fun. But the main impetus for counting birds on May 12<sup>th</sup> is to raise money for our organization.** Birdathon is an important fund raising event for our chapter, allowing us to sustain our programs in environmental education, conservation advocacy, and nature appreciation.

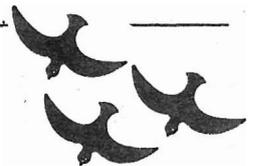
### What can you do to help?

- First, you can sponsor our birdwatching teams by making a financial pledge for each bird species seen or heard. Usually our totals range from 160 to 180 species.
- Second, you can make an outright donation to Birdathon.
- Third, you can form a team of your own to count the birds. The rules are simple: Let us know beforehand that you will be participating; Only count birds whose identity you are certain of; Confine your explorations to Suffolk County. You are welcome to participate for as long or as short a time period as you would like on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Fourth, you can join one of our teams out in the field for all or part of the day. All levels of birdwatchers – including beginners – are invited to participate.

If you would like to take part in any of the ways mentioned – or have questions about the event – please contact Beth Gustin [rbgust@lial.com](mailto:rbgust@lial.com) or 631-874-9424.

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## BIRDATHON 2007



Please accept my pledge of:    5 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_    10 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_    50 cents per species \_\_\_\_\_    \$1 per species    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. My check is enclosed. (Checks should payable to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this Birdathon coupon to: Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206.

*An open letter to fellow Audubon members from Peg Caraher, President of the Quogue Wildlife Refuge:*

## A NEW ERA AT THE QUOGUE WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Quogue Wildlife Refuge (QWR) has been the Audubon (ELIAS) home away from home for over twenty years. Our member meetings and board meetings have been held at the Refuge, and Audubon has collaborated with the Refuge on projects such as seed sales and the annual Earth Day Celebration. As another example of how closely the two organizations are bound, several members of the ELIAS board also serve on the Refuge board.

During the period when Audubon was struggling financially, the Refuge Board waived their (modest) fee for use of the facility. In addition, QWR has allowed ELIAS to have a sales table at the Refuge. QWR staff stock the table, handle the sales, and keep the records, but the income goes to Audubon.

Now the Refuge needs your help. As past president of Audubon, and a board member for more than 25 years, I am appealing to you for assistance.

### *What changed and why*

The Refuge is owned by the Village of Quogue, the Town of Southampton, and the Southampton Town Wildlife Association (STWA). The Association actively manages the Refuge. For over fifty years, they leased the Refuge to the NY State Department of Conservation, and the DEC provided employees as well as funding for other expenses. In April 2006, the DEC decided to transfer their employees to another site and terminate their arrangement with the Refuge.

STWA now has sole responsibility for management of the Refuge. Mike Nelson is the Director, and his wife, Marisa, is Assistant Director.

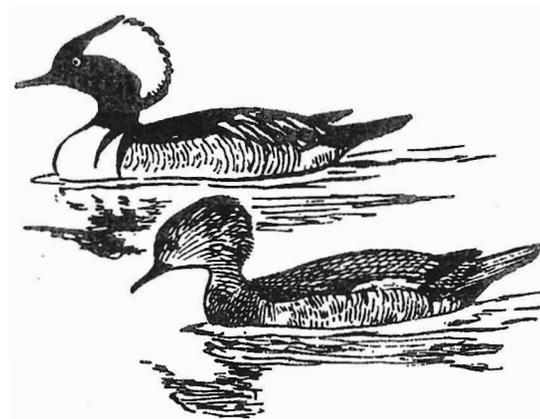
### *You can help*

A fund raising campaign is underway consisting of a mail appeal, a summer cocktail party, and grant requests. In addition, for \$5,000 individuals or organizations can purchase benches with plaques honoring a person or identifying the donating organization. In the near future, commemorative

bricks will provide another opportunity for donors who wish to contribute small amounts. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

### *Become a member and/or volunteer*

For \$35.00 per year you can be a member of the Refuge, receive our newsletter, and priority on applications for the summer ecology camps for children. If you would like to volunteer, the Refuge needs help with many projects.



### *Why we love the Refuge*

The Refuge is a precious community resource, where adults and children can enjoy peaceful walks in a lovely three hundred acre sanctuary. It is also a place where kids can have fun while learning about nature and how to protect it. Last year, 347 programs were conducted by Refuge staff. Of these, 127 were programs held at the Refuge for children, and 133 were nature education classes taught in local schools. Educating the next generation about conservation is an investment that will benefit all of us for years to come.

For more information, call the Refuge at 631-653-4771 or visit their website [quoguwildliferefuge.org](http://quoguwildliferefuge.org). If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the Quogue Wildlife Refuge and send it to QWR, PO Box 492, Quogue, NY 11959.

Pleasant Surprises – continued from Page 1

### *On the other side of the world*

We spent the first two weeks of December in Aruba. On this trip, an unexpected detour was as enlightening as the birding. While doing some casual shopping, a clerk noticed I was purchasing a number of wooden birds. When she learned that I liked birding, she gave us directions to her home and introduced us to her husband, Ricardo.

From their home, Hans and I embarked on a four and a half hour tour of Aruba, which included rehabilitated birds, confiscated birds smuggled into the country, a breeding bird center, and a private wildlife refuge. Our “leader” Ricardo was the head of the Pathology Department at the only hospital in Aruba. His passion – caring for injured birds – and love for all animals was obvious. His running commentary on life in Aruba, his experiences in South American rain forests, and his criticism of fellow drivers was both entertaining and informative. This was a slice of Aruba we had never experienced before, and it was the highlight of the trip for both Hans and me.

Did I see birds? You bet. Just from my beach chair, I was able to watch some old friends, who were also in Aruba for vacation – snowy egret, great white egret, lesser yellowlegs, royal tern, laughing gull, sanderling, and even a banded ruddy turnstone. Of the tropical birds, I added magnificent frigatebird, brown pelican, sparrow hawk, bare-eyed pigeon, Caribbean parakeet, bananaquit, black-faced grassquit, and the spectacular troupial to my list. I even posted a short report on [www.arubabirds.com](http://www.arubabirds.com), a terrific website, which is a must read for any birder traveling to the island.

Planning ahead with field guides and websites was helpful for both trips, but being open to serendipity and the unexpected made both of them truly memorable.

## *Membership Corner*

John McNeil

I would personally like to thank those chapter member supporters who renewed their memberships in January without a reminder from me.

If your membership expired in January and you have not renewed, please do so. When renewing, please include your email address so that I can send you a confirmation thank you.

Memberships expire in either January or July. Your expiration date is on the mailing label of your newsletter. Please renew early.

## *Osprey Nest Resurrected*

Bob Murray

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, members of our chapter, together with Aram Terchunian’s First Coastal Corporation and a crew from the Village of Westhampton Beach’s Department of Public Works, erected a new osprey nest platform on the marsh next to the Beach Lawn Bridge on the Quantuck Canal.

The old nest blew down in late August, leaving three very young ospreys and their parents somewhat distressed. The nest site has now been restored and will be ready for the family when it returns next spring.



## *Kalers Pond Nature Center News*

Jay Kuhlman

Audubon New York has a new Director of Education. Her name is Pam Musk, and she came from Massachusetts Audubon. She started in January and will help us to educate people about nature, especially children.. We will focus our attention on scouting groups.

Last fall, we planted five native trees and a number of shrubs and plants in the gardens. We should have the bird blind finished by spring. The first program will be a combination Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration on April 28.

Birdathon will be on May 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraising event held jointly with ELIAS. (See page 3 of this newsletter for more information.) Please think about participating and forming teams to enjoy this special day.

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*This newsletter reaches over 500 households, primarily in the Townships of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, and Brookhaven.*

*Our readers are a target audience for nature-friendly businesses. For rates, contact newsletter editor Shirley Morrison at 631-208-3894 or shmorri@suffolk.lib.ny.us*

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# SPRING MIGRATION TABLE

This migration table is intended as a guide to the arrival of spring migrants. The early part of the spring migration schedule (late Feb through mid April) is variable, and species often arrive a week or two earlier or later than the indicated dates. The end of April and the entire month of May is the period when arrivals are often predictable to within a few days. Species known to winter in substantial numbers on Long Island are marked with an asterisk. It may be difficult or impossible to distinguish these wintering birds from early spring arrivals.

## Feb 21 - 28

- Common Grackle\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Canada Goose\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Red-winged Blackbird\* \_\_\_\_\_

## March 1 - 10

- Pied-billed Grebe\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Wood Duck \_\_\_\_\_
- Amer. Woodcock \_\_\_\_\_
- Killdeer\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Robin \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Bluebird \_\_\_\_\_
- Rusty Blackbird \_\_\_\_\_
- Fox Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Song 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Fish Crow\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Water Pipit \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Meadowlark\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Brn-headed Cowbird \_\_\_\_\_

## March 21 - 31

- Dble-crested Cormorant \_\_\_\_\_
- Osprey \_\_\_\_\_
- Laughing Gull \_\_\_\_\_
- Greater-Yellowlegs \_\_\_\_\_
- Tree Swallow \_\_\_\_\_
- Golden-cr Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_
- Savannah Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Vesper Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_
- Field Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_

## April 1 - 10

- Great Blue Heron\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Great Egret \_\_\_\_\_
- Amer. Bittern \_\_\_\_\_
- Blue-winged Teal \_\_\_\_\_
- Merlin \_\_\_\_\_
- Pectoral Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_
- Yellow-bel Sapsucker \_\_\_\_\_
- Brown Creeper \_\_\_\_\_
- Ruby-cr Kinglet \_\_\_\_\_
- Pine Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- Palm Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- White-thr Sparrow\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Swamp 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher \_\_\_\_\_
- Myrtle Warbler\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Louisiana Waterthrush \_\_\_\_\_
- Rufous-sided Towhee\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Chipping Sparrow \_\_\_\_\_

## April 21 - 30

- Little Blue Heron \_\_\_\_\_
- Common Gallinule \_\_\_\_\_
- Black-bellied Plover \_\_\_\_\_
- Semipalmated Plover \_\_\_\_\_
- Whimbrel \_\_\_\_\_

- Spotted Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_
- Solitary Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_
- Least Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_
- Dunlin \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Hooded Warbler \_\_\_\_\_
- Bobolink \_\_\_\_\_
- Orchard Oriole \_\_\_\_\_

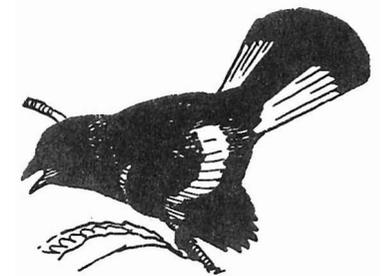
- Northern Oriole \_\_\_\_\_
- Scarlet Tanager \_\_\_\_\_
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## May 21 - 31

- Sooty Shearwater \_\_\_\_\_
- Wilson's Petrel \_\_\_\_\_
- Black Tern \_\_\_\_\_
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_
- Willow Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_
- Olive-sided Flycatcher \_\_\_\_\_
- Mourning Warbler \_\_\_\_\_



# Earth Day 2007

*Quogue Wildlife Refuge*  
Saturday, April 21 from 11 am to 4 pm

- ★ Guided walks
- ★ Canoe and kayak rides
- ★ Crafts for kids and adults
- ★ Bird of prey and reptile demonstrations
- ★ All ages invited



Celebrate nature awareness with us!

## *Feeder Survey Postponed*

There is no feeder survey in this issue of the newsletter, because Ed Stembler, Mary Beth's father, died in January. Ed faithfully compiled the survey statistics and produced summary reports for many years. We all send our condolences to Mary Beth.

## *Apology from the Editor*

Sorry for the abridged newsletter. I tried to do this issue on a friend's computer in Florida, and it gave me fits. Things should be back to normal by the next issue.

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