



# *The* **OSPREY**

May/June—Vol. XXXVIII No. 3

## Now is the time!

As we welcome Spring, I hope you will all get out and enjoy the birds that will be coming through our area. John McNeil has planned many trips with knowledgeable, thoughtful leaders to go out and look and listen for the migrants coming through. Take advantage of the weather and the wonderful place we live in and go look for those jewels in the treetops. Dianne Taggart, creator of Llbirding, and Linda Sullivan will be talking about a famous spring birding locale in Ohio. Their pictures should be a nice warm up to help us remember all the plumages of those confusing, but brilliantly colored wood warblers.

## Nature Walks/Field Trips

John McNeil, Field Trip Chair

Saturday, May 4 at 9:00 am

### Bird Walk to the Hallock State Park

Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont

Traverse the varied habitats of the New Hallock State Park during the peak migration time for neotropical species such as thrushes, vireos, warblers and more. Join MaryLaura for a morning outing to catch the wave. For additional detail MaryLaura Lamont may be contacted at 631-399-2030. There is a \$5 charge for this walk to benefit the Hallockville Farm Museum.

Sunday, May 5, 2013 8:00 AM

### Terrell River County Park

Trip leaders: Jay Kuhlman and Beth Gustin

The varied habitats of Terrell River County Park make for some great birding. Join Jay Kuhlman and Beth Gustin to search for spring migrants and nesting species in the forest, marsh, and along the beach. Indigo Bunting, Black and White Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Salt-marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Glossy Ibis, and Great-crested Flycatcher are just a few of the species that may be there. The walk is about 3 miles and should take us 2-3 hours. We will meet at 8:00 am at the trail head, located in Center Moriches on the south side of Montauk Highway, across from Kaler's Pond Audubon Center and the Flight 800 Memorial Park. Call Beth at (631)848-9883 for details or more directions.

*Continued on page 3*

## Nature Programs/Meetings

*Monday night meetings are held at Quogue Wildlife Refuge.*

*The programs are free and open to the public.*

**Bob Adamo, Interim Program Chair**

**Monday, May 6, 2013 beginning at 7:15 pm**

### Spring Warblers

**Dianne Taggart & Linda Sullivan**

Spring warblers, wet feet, chilly temps and warbler neck; these are a few of our favorite things! Now, imagine eliminating the warbler neck, wet feet and chilly temps, add in cozy temps, a comfortable chair and magnificent views of almost all the warblers you always hope to see each spring!

These are the ingredients for our May presentation given by Linda Sullivan and Dianne Taggart about their trip to Magee Marsh in Ohio.

Come enjoy their lively photo presentation of all that a Spring trip to Magee Marsh can be! See close up shots of beautiful warblers in full breeding plumage. Marvel along with Dianne and Linda and the thousands of birders who flock to Magee Marsh for Biggest Week Birding Festival.

This is a lively, fun and entertaining presentation offered at the height of our own warbler migration. This is definitely another "not to miss" presentation! Come one, come all and enjoy!

**Monday, June 3, 2013 beginning at 7:15 pm**

### Introduction to the Fungi of Long Island

**Joel Horman**

Joel Horman will present a digital slide show and lecture describing and explaining the central role that fungi have in the environment. He will discuss the taxonomy of fungi and their relationships to other groups. Are those mushrooms edible or dangerous? Do they have practical uses? What are the recent developments in mycology? These are questions Mr. Horman will tackle. He has been studying mushrooms and documenting the species on LI for over 20 years. He has functioned as newsletter editor and one of the chief identifiers who helped identify over 900 mushroom species, some of them new to NYS and the east coast. The slides will illustrate both the beauty and the bizarre aspects of this relatively little known Kingdom.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



# Harbingers of Spring

BYRON YOUNG

## Byron Young, ELIAS President

**D**uring this winter more than others in the recent past we have all been looking for any harbinger of spring. What signs do you look for, the first Robin, that first Crocus, the waterfowl leaving, the first Osprey? For me it is the first Alewife, which is a river herring that spawns locally and attracts several species of birds and animals that feed on this early spring arrival.

I began my quest for an Alewife sighting in late February just before heading for Florida for some warm sunny weather. However, that plan was foiled, as Florida was damp and chilly during the last week of February. Upon returning to the even chillier Long Island I found evidence that Alewives were beginning to explore the local creeks.

On March 11 the spawning run of Alewives began in earnest in the Peconic River and continued to grow until a series of spring snow storms dropped the water tempera-

ture back below 40 degrees. What has been of interest this spring is the number of birds that have been attracted to the Alewife spawning run in the pool below Woodhull Dam on Little River that flows into the Peconic River. I first spotted two Great Blue Herons, not necessarily a harbinger of spring, watching the pool, then on March 13th I had my first Osprey of the season flying along the river looking for lunch. Since then there have been at least three Ospreys feeding on Alewives at the pool below Woodhull dam. In addition to the Osprey there has been at least two Great Egrets, and at least one Black-crowned Night Heron attracted to the pool for a spring feed of fresh fish.

A local photographer found this spot and has been collecting a wonderful selection of photos of Osprey capturing Alewives from the pool. He can pull his vehicle right up adjacent to the pool and using the vehicle as a blind be within 50 feet of perched Osprey as they watch the pool and then dive into the water in hopes of

catching a meal. All too soon the Osprey will be moving out over the Bays to feed on other returning fish for themselves and their young. However, I have certainly enjoyed this harbinger of spring and the surprising number of Osprey that are enjoying a fresh meal upon their return,

So with the arrival of the Alewives and the Osprey I am confident that spring has finally arrived, even though the temperatures and the series of late season snow storms don't necessarily support that view.

As of early April the Alewife run was in full swing. The Osprey, Great Egrets, Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron seemed to be very satisfied with their spring buffet while we enjoy their bright spring plumage and observe their territorial breeding behaviors. This can only mean that other spring migrants are on their way, bringing with them the sights and sounds of spring.

*Happy Spring Birding!*



# Upcoming Nature Walks, *continued from page 1*

**Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30 am**  
**Led by John McNeil**

**Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 am**  
**Led by Byron Young**

## Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

This Refuge on the south shore of Long Island is one of the last undeveloped estuary systems on Long Island. About half of the refuge consists of aquatic habitats including bay with marine seagrass beds, intertidal saltmarsh, high saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, shrub swamp, and red maple swamp. The Refuge's saltmarshes, combined with the adjacent New York State-owned saltmarsh, form the largest continuous saltmarsh on Long Island.

The wildlife populations are quite diverse. About 300 species of birds have been documented here. About 5,000 waterfowl winter here. The coastal location also makes this Refuge an excellent migration corridor for shorebirds, raptors and songbirds.

Long Island Expwy. (I-495), Exit 68S, or Sunrise Hwy. (Rte.27), Exit 58S, to the William Floyd Pkwy. (CR46S). From the

junction of William Floyd parkway and Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A/CR80) proceed west on Montauk (CR 80W) approximately one mile, turn south onto Smith Road. Go 1/4 mile to the Refuge entrance on the right. We will meet in the parking lot for about a 3 hour bird walk through the varied habitat trying to spot or hear some of the spring migrants.

**Friday, May 10 at 7:30 am**  
**Quogue Wildlife Refuge**

**Trip leader: Eileen Schwinn**

Join Eileen for an early May morning walk around the Quogue Wildlife Refuge to catch some of the spring migrants. Walking shoes, water bottle and binoculars will be needed. Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot of the Refuge.

**Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 am**  
**William Floyd Estate, Mastic**

**Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont**

In honor of International Migratory Bird Day the William Floyd Estate and Eastern Long Island Audubon Society will conduct a bird walk through the Estate's historic

grounds of fields, woods, creeks and marshes. Bring binoculars for this 2-mile walk to catch a glimpse of the early spring migrating birds. Use the Main Entrance Gate on Park Dr., Mastic. Call 631-399-2030 for further info. Program ends by about noon.

**Saturday, June 1 at 7:00 am**  
**Birding at Hempstead Lake State Park**

**Trip Leader: John McNeil**

Please join John for a birding experience at Hempstead Lake State Park. This park is an IBA that supports large numbers of flycatchers, warblers, tanagers and a mix of other birds from mid April to late May and into early June. We will meet at the park-and-ride lot off of Route 112 in Patchogue, just east of the ShopRite at 7:00 am (this was Home Depot). Contact John McNeil at 631-219-8947 or birdwchr@gmail.com for additional details. If you would like to drive by yourself the directions are: Southern State Parkway west to Exit 18 (Eagle Ave.) and proceed south to the 2nd parking lot.

## At the North Fork Preserve

**S**aturday, April 6th our group set out to explore The North Fork Preserve. We were happy to welcome a group from East Islip High School. On the first pond we came to there were Green-winged Teal, a nice duck to find. Proceeding into the woods, MaryLaura Lamont pointed out some of the trees that defined this as a rare fresh water swamp. As we crossed one of the fields we were able to observe a large nest, with a resident. Was it a Great-horned Owl or a Red-tail? There were votes for each. Later on we passed a small, shallow pond and up flew two Wilson's Snipe. Then over a larger pond, an Osprey and a Red-tail put on a show for everyone. At the end of the walk, the teens found an owl pellet and were able to see the jaw bone of a tiny mouse embedded in it. (photo right).



BETH GUSTIN

BETH GUSTIN

CONSERVATION COLUMN

**Sometimes it's the changes and good each of us can do**

**“Nobody can do everything but everyone can do something”**

**Beth Gustin**

When thinking about ways that we can try to be kinder to the environment, furniture may not be the first thing that comes to mind. However, there are important reasons to be conscious about the furniture we purchase and enjoy in our homes.

As environmentally conscious people we should be aware of where the wood which is used to make our furniture comes from. So much furniture is produced with wood from threatened rain forests. These “tropical hardwoods” often come from rain forests in Southeast Asia and South America where deforestation is a devastating problem. These hardwoods include mahogany and teak and are sometimes illegally harvested. Wood may also be harvested from North American forests using unsustainable practices.



When buying new furniture look for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo. Having FSC certification means that the wood used to make the furniture was sustainably harvested and that the manufacturing process did not result in habitat or biodiversity loss. Another international non-profit organization called the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) promotes sustainable forest management. We can also increase the environmental friendliness of our furniture by purchasing items that incorporate sustainable products such as bamboo, seagrass and organic cotton. Many mainstream companies offer eco-friendly furniture options so it is quite easy to find these options.



Think about the quality of the new furniture that you purchase. You may spend a few more dollars for a higher quality product but it will

probably last a lot longer than the environmentally unfriendly cheap stuff and will

reduce the need to purchase more furniture in a short period of time. In addition, fewer junky pieces will end up in our landfills. But keep in mind that just because something is expensive does not mean it comes from a sustainable forest. Often the mahogany and teak woods previously mentioned are used to make pricey furniture so it is very important to look for FSC or PEFC certification logos.

Consider going antiquing! Not only will you find some beautiful, high quality furniture, but you can also find some great birding spots near many antiquing towns. Buying antique furniture or even newer, used furniture reduces the demand for any new hardwood harvesting.

When considering whether to buy furniture that is produced in an environmentally friendly way, keep in mind that these products may also be a healthier choice for your home. Some cheaply made furniture contains higher levels of chemicals such as formaldehyde, polyurethanes, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which can cause respiratory problems.

**If you build it, will they come?**

Long Island Aquarium, Lowe's Home Improvement and Eastern Long Island Audubon Society are sponsoring a bird house contest. ELIAS participated in the introduction of the contest at the Aquarium. Lowe's supplied bird house kits for the children. Participants in the contest will have to design their own bird house and build it to look like a Long Island landmark.

Byron Young, Sally Newbert, Ridgie Barnett and Suzi Stewart all helped out.

If you visit the Aquarium between July 1 and Aug. 5 you will be able to vote for the winners, which will be announced in September.



## Breeding Bird Census

June 8-23, 2013

Eileen Schwinn

Since the 1975 bird breeding season, our Chapter has conducted extensive surveys of resident – and presumed breeding – birds. Using the same geographic area as our Central Suffolk Christmas Count (Cupsogue and Smith Point Beaches, Gabreski Airport, EPCAL, Riverhead and Yaphank as rough outlines) enthusiastic volunteers venture out alone or in small groups. While not the "Snap-Shot" of a Christmas Count, these surveys take place at the participant's schedule. This year, the survey period is June 8-23, 2013. Experience in counts is not a necessity, and many new birders find participation in the Census very rewarding. Groups are put together with every level of birding skills and extra eyes are always needed! Over the years, more than 210 species of birds have been recorded, with some groups reporting close to 100 birds for the day! Part and whole day commitments are available to meet your schedule, with weekend and weekday teams offered. For many, this intense birding experience is a wonderful way to see lots of birds with a good group of friendly, knowledgeable people.

For more information, contact Eileen Schwinn — [beachmed@optonline.net](mailto:beachmed@optonline.net) or phone: 516-662-7751. There's a place for everyone and all are welcome!

**ELIAS is on Facebook**  
**Check it Out and Click on Like**

# Audubon Adventures at Kaler's Pond

*Ten days of fun exploration and excitement!*

From 9:00 am to Noon

For children entering grades K-5

Full Season of ten Fundays

(Thursdays and Fridays): \$305

July 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26, and August 1 & 2, 8 & 9

\*\*\*Pre-Memorial Day Sign-Up Special for the Full Season: \$260

### Program Highlights...

- ✿ Learn about plants and animals while exploring forests, bays, ponds.
- ✿ Observe plants and animals up close with the help of our knowledgeable staff.
- ✿ Each "Adventurer" will receive a journal to record their nature experiences and memories.
- ✿ Short nature hikes, Explorations, Games, Music, Sketching, Crafts and more!

*If the weather doesn't cooperate, a weather-protected, clean, air-conditioned nature center for exciting discoveries is available.*

For information please contact us:

[royer@audubon.org](mailto:royer@audubon.org) or (516) 922-3200

Kaler's Pond Audubon Center

P.O. Box 865; Center Moriches, NY 11934

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### Audubon Fundays Registration Form

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Payment amount \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method     V/MC     Check # \_\_\_\_\_     Cash

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill out one form per child*

# Eastport Feeds, Inc.

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 Triumph® Horse Feed  
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 Eastport, NY 11941  
 631-325-0077

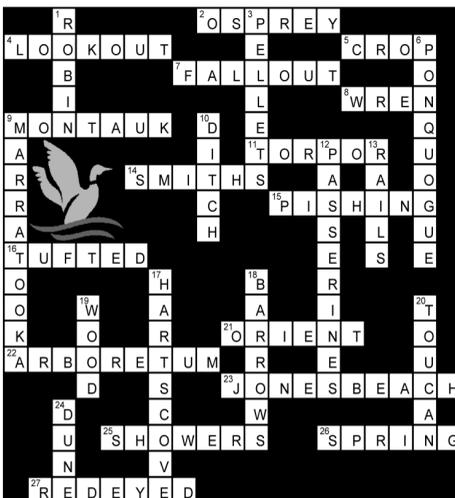
## Get Involved

Would you like to submit  
 an article or a photo?

We would like

to hear from you. Contact:  
 eliasosprey@optonline.net.

### Answers to last issue's puzzle Places to See Sea Ducks by Tom Moran



## Spring Birding by Tom Moran



### Across

2. BeeBzz warbler (two words)
3. If you go to Cupsogue and see the Black one of these, you could say that "one good \_\_\_\_ deserves another"
5. If size doesn't give this woodpecker up, the three spots on the white of its tail feathers should
6. Orioles build this distinctive type of nest
9. Sweet sweet sweet little more sweet warbler
10. A good place to see warblers is at this county park
12. This Grebe was seen at Captree (two words)
14. A good number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at this new \_\_\_\_ Preserve last year (two words)
16. A good place to see a Scarlet Tanager, if it is unlocked \_\_\_\_ Garden
18. The long migrating Red Knot is dependent on the eggs of this crab
19. After a chilly day of birding take an Eastern Towhee's advise (three words)
21. Another display to attract a mate is \_\_\_\_ pointing
22. Chestnut capped warbler with a trill call

### Down

1. To get attention from a potential mate a bird might make this \_\_\_\_ bobbing display
3. Surprisingly Belted Kingfishers build this type of nest, who knew they were sandhogs
4. A likely reed on which to see a Marsh Wren perched
6. The "alternate" plumage replaces the duller basic primarily for the purpose of this
7. A recent rarity seen at Gilgo Beach
8. Behavior that leads to mating is referred to as
10. Birds defend this area called their
11. Birds do more of this in the spring in part to attract a mate
12. The collection of songs a bird knows
13. A surprising number of this type of Wigeon were seen at the West Sayville Golf course this winter
15. This warbler was seen at Rocky Point DEC last spring
17. Square tailed accipiter \_\_\_\_-shinned Hawk
20. Important spring time job is to build one of these

# Mississippi Kite

*Ictinia Mississippiensis*

## Carl Starace

The Mississippi Kite is one of four breeding species within our borders, the others being the Snail Kite, Swallow-tailed, and White-tailed Kite. The kites' scientific name comes from, *iktinos*, the Greek word for a kite. The Latinized name for Mississippi is due to the first specimen being collected in that state. Kites are members of the Hawk family, *Accipitridae*, and number twenty species worldwide. The Mississippi Kite is a slim, long-winged raptor that is similar in body size, length and wingspan to our Peregrine Falcon. But the falcon is up to three times heavier than the Kite. All kites have lightweight bodies and that is what gives them such a buoyant, graceful flight. It is just this characteristic that has endeared me to the kites. I've watched a number of different kite species hunting neotropical skies but my only U.S. sighting of the Mississippi Kite was at the William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach several summers ago. I was bicycling in a large field on my way to observe shorebirds on the marsh when the bird came into view. I jumped off the bike, letting it smack into the ground, raised my binoculars and got a clear view of its field marks as it circled above the tree line before moving off towards Patchogue.

**RANGE:** The Mississippi Kite nests in southeastern Colorado and Arizona, northeast Kansas, Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and South Carolina south to northwest Florida and the Gulf Coast. Its stronghold is the southern Great Plains. In recent years nesters have appeared in places like Connecticut and New Hampshire and vagrant birds have reached Northern Michigan and even Newfoundland, Canada.

**DESCRIPTION:** Kites are social birds that sometimes forage for food, roost and also migrate in groups. Mississippi Kites are 12 to 15 inches from beak to tail tip. Their weight is from 7.6 ounces to 13.7 oz. and wingspan of 3 feet. The adults are both an overall grey in color with a black tail. Adult males heads are whitish, the



*Although the Mississippi Kite is an unusual bird our area, in June of 2012 a pair set up a nest right next to the parking lot of the Visitor's Center at Sterling Forest, NY. Eileen Schwinn took these photos and shared her enthusiasm "this was a pretty neat pair of birds, and was observed over many weeks by multiple observers! I went there twice myself."*

females an ashy grey. Mature birds have buff heads, their undersides heavily streaked with brown, their black tails have 3 grey bars. This Kite's eyes are red, encircled by black.

**BREEDING:** This species breeds once a year between May and July. They form pairs before or soon after arriving on their breeding ground. Both parents attend to and bring food to the nest. They will build the nest high in a tree, sometimes choosing a site close to bees and/or wasps which ward off botflies that attack the Kite's young.

**FOOD:** These Kites eat mostly insects, many times snacking while on the wing. The list includes cicadas, crickets, dragonflies, beetles, and on occasion smaller snakes, lizards and frogs. The Kite will follow cattle and horses to feed on the insects they will flush.

**VOICE:** Mississippi Kites communicate using two different whistle-like calls. One is a two syllable, *phew phew*, with the first note short and rising. The second is the longer and it falls. Its been described as, *phew-ti-ti*. These calls have also been noted as sounding similar to the sound of a squeaky dog toy.

*Our migrants will soon be upon us!*

*I wish you all a great birding season!*

Carl Starace

# Florida, in February

This February, Eileen Schwinn spent a week birding on the eastern coast of Florida. The following photos are just some of the really neat birds she and her friend, Sue, saw while there.

Featured here are: a Burrowing Owl - Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Green Cay and a Red-headed Woodpecker on Merritt Island.



# Preventing Tick Bites

Tom Moran

**T**icks have become a concern among birders. The threat of Lyme disease, the most common tickborne illness in the United States, has to be taken seriously. Its symptoms may include flu-like symptoms: fever, chills, fatigue and body aches. Other problems that can occur weeks, even months afterwards include joint pain, meningitis (inflammation of the brain), facial paralysis, numbness in limbs and impaired muscle movement. Other victims develop heart problems, liver inflammation, eye inflammation and severe fatigue.

The problem for birders is that ticks thrive in areas we like to bird. Areas that attract birds also attract tick carriers which include mice, deer and... birds! Ticks wait on grass and shrubs in order to come into contact with a meal ticket. Ticks do not jump or fall from foliage.

Lyme disease is mostly caused by bites from deer tick nymphs, which are the size of a pin head, and as a result, difficult to spot. These are active in late spring and summer. Adult deer ticks may also spread the disease and are active year round, including warm winter days.

## So what's a birder to do?

When hiking in tick habitat, four strategies can be employed to avoid bites: avoidance, barriers, repellants and pesticides. Some areas well known for birds are also infamous for ticks. I remember on one bird walk, I used several sheets of a lint roller to remove many ticks from my fellow birders. Each of us has to make the decision about whether we should venture to these locations or whether it is best to avoid them. Common sense and awareness can help avoid ticks. Stay on the path and avoid brushing up unnecessarily with high grass and shrubs.

We can all picture the quintessential birder with binoculars glued to his face and pants tucked into socks. Most ticks make contact low and climb upward. By preventing ticks from gaining access up the bottom of the pant leg, the bite may be avoided. Another barrier method is the

use of gaiters. Gaiters are cloth that wrap around the calf and ankle usually sealed with velcro. They are elasticized on top and attach to the shoe. They were commonly used to keep rocks, snow and water out of shoes but now are also used to prevent ticks from climbing under the pant leg. Perhaps a bit more stylish than stuffing pant legs inside socks and cannot become unstuffed, but still a bit geeky.

Repellants prevent insects from sensing humans or making us less appealing to them. There are chemical and natural repellants. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Deet, a chemical repellant, is generally considered the best, both in terms of its ability to repel insects and how long it lasts. It is sold in various concentration levels: 4.5% to 23.8%, for example. Also according to the CDC, the concentration ratio should be chosen

**Some products,  
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based on the length of time outdoors, higher concentrations last longer than lower ones. Picardin is another chemical based repellant deemed effective against mosquitos but may be less effective against ticks. Be forewarned that Deet can damage some plastics.

Natural based repellants include products made from oil of lemon eucalyptus and citronella oil. These products have shorter durations of effectiveness, that is they must be reapplied more often, and are rated effective against mosquitos but not ticks, according to the Connecticut Agri-

cultural Experiment Station.

Permethrin is primarily an insecticide and partially a repellent. It is applied to the exterior of clothing, where it will kill ticks on contact. Some products, such as pants, shirts and gaiters, are now sold pretreated with permethrin. It has been rated highly effective. The product can last more than two weeks and clothing can be washed without diminishing the product's effectiveness. It is not to be used as a repellent, do not apply to skin.

If you choose to use a repellent or insecticide be sure to read the directions.

Some authorities recommend wearing light colored clothing on which ticks can be more easily spotted and removed. After your outing inspect yourself for ticks; prompt removal reduces the chance of disease. One study indicates that removal within twenty-four hours will prevent transmission of disease. Washing your clothes alone will not kill all ticks. Drying clothes in a dryer for an hour has been shown to be effective, no studies were done to correlate killing ticks with shrinkage.

Being aware of tick habitat and behavior, avoiding them where possible and using one or more of the above techniques will help us avoid or reduce tick bites. We are an intrepid group: braving the vagaries of weather, be it the cold of winter, humidity in summer, rain in spring. Let's not let the tick deter us. *Good birding!*

*A few sources if you would like more information:*

[http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/fact\\_sheets/tick-biteprevention05.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/fact_sheets/tick-biteprevention05.pdf)

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/west-nile/qa/insect\\_repellent.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/west-nile/qa/insect_repellent.htm)

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/lyme-disease/DS00116>



# Cicadas Returning to the East Coast This Spring

The East Coast is preparing to welcome hoards of periodic cicadas that have been hibernating underground for 17 years.

This spring marks the end of the cicadas' nearly two-decade life span. The insects live the most of their lives underground and feed off of roots of trees until they reappear above ground for mating.

The group expected this spring, known as Brood 2, is the offspring of cicadas last seen in 1996. If they follow the same tracks as in the past, they'll emerge in Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

They are expected to appear above ground between mid-April and late May when soil temperatures reach approximately 64 F.

Cicadas spend most of their lives underground. Near the end of their lifespan they emerge to climb trees, shed their exoskeletons, sing, fly and mate. Both females and males die soon after the females lay their eggs.

The next Brood 2 generation will emerge in 2030 to repeat the cycle all over again.

## The Impact of Periodic Cicada on Birds

- Adult cicadas are large, easily captured and readily consumed by a large number of bird species.
- Due to the abundant supply of periodic cicadas to prey upon, activity at bird feeders is likely to drop during the 6-7 weeks the cicadas are emerging and active.
- Long-term activity at bird feeders may increase due to the increase in bird populations (due mostly to increased fledging success) for the next one to three years. Feeder activity may also increase due to the increased damage to trees and the subsequent loss of tree nuts and fruits.
- Studies have shown that some bird species experience one or more of the following impacts during periodic cicada emergence years:

- increased number of nests
- earlier breeding
- larger clutches
- increased nestling body mass
- increased rates of nestling survival
- significantly higher fledging success

### Research has determined the following specific population changes:

- Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos' populations increased to high numbers only during emergence years and then declined to average population levels by the following year.
- Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbird populations increased significantly for 1-3 years following emergences and then returned to average population levels.
- Red-headed Woodpeckers, American Crows, Tufted Titmice, Gray Catbirds, and Brown Thrasher populations show a significant population increase during the year following an emergence, and then stabilized to average population levels by the second year after the emergence.
- Wood Thrushes, Northern Mockingbirds, Northern Cardinals, House Sparrows, Red-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Towhee showed insignificant changes to their populations during or after emergence years.

### General Information about Periodic Cicadas

- Periodic cicadas are found only in eastern North America.
- Periodic cicadas are different from the familiar annual cicadas which emerge from the ground every year and make their droning noise during the heat of late summer.
- Many people know periodical cicadas by the name "17-year locusts" or "13-year locusts", but they are not true locusts, which are actually a type of grasshopper.
- There are seven species of Cicadas including four with 13-year life cycles and

three with 17-year cycles.

- The seven species of Cicada emerge in separate groups in many different regions of North America over a variety of different years, thus creating 15 unique "Broods," or year-classes.
- Once they emerge from the ground, adult Cicadas only live about two-four weeks.
- Female Cicadas cut a series of Y-shaped slits into living tree twigs and lay up to twenty eggs in each.
- The eggs hatch in six to ten weeks, the nymphs then drop from the trees to burrow underground, find a root for feeding, and begin their 13- or 17-year development.
- Cicadas do not sting or bite, they are not poisonous or known to transmit disease.
- The emergence of massive numbers of cicadas is probably the cicadas' defensive strategy to overwhelm its many predators which are unable to consume more than a fraction of their total population.
- Forest areas within the emergence region of periodic cicadas suffer a 4% decline in growth rates during emergence years due to the heavy damage inflicted by the cicadas' egg laying behavior which kills the ends of many small branches.
- However, the carcasses of dead adult cicadas, present in large numbers in emergence years, provide a significant nutrient addition to forest soils aiding in forest recovery.
- This link will provide location maps and emergence years for the 15 different North American broods: [http://www.magicicada.org/magicicada\\_ii.php](http://www.magicicada.org/magicicada_ii.php)

*This information was supplied by Gary at Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop, 911 Montauk Highway in Oakdale.*



# Feeder Survey for May/June

## John McNeil

The Survey will be conducted the first full week of the month starting on Sunday and ending the following Sunday. This survey takes place from October to June.

### 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.

#### There are three ways to participate:

##### 1. Mail the survey to:

**Feeder Survey c/o John McNeil**  
168 Lexington Road  
Shirley, NY 11967

##### 2. Send your information via the internet

go to:  
[easternlongislandaudubon.org](http://easternlongislandaudubon.org)  
and

- 1) Click on: Chapter Projects
- 2) Click on: Feeder Statistics
- 3) Click on: To submit via the internet and follow the prompts

**3. Email the results to:**  
[birdwchr@gmail.com](mailto:birdwchr@gmail.com)

#### Survey Dates:

**Sun., May 5 to Sun., May 12**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Survey Dates:

**Sun., June 2 to Sun., June 9**

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 \_\_\_\_\_



BYRON YOUNG



BYRON YOUNG

## From the Field & Forest From Gilgo & Captree



On March 9 John McNeil (right) led a trip to Gilgo Beach and the West End of Jones Beach. The group was lucky enough to get good scope views of the rare Gyrfalcon near Gilgo Beach. It was too far for photos, maybe next time. Here the group was looking for the Red-Neck Grebe. The trip wrapped up at Sayville Golf Course with nice views of the Eurasian Widgeons that were there for a good part of the winter.

**Its a winter day,  
cold and grey**

**What to do?  
Head to Quogue  
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The performance  
was partially  
sponsored by  
ELIAS. Over 100  
people attended.**

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Hospitality: Ridgie Barnett 631-288-3628

Conservation & Bluebird Restoration:

Gigi Spates 631-765-1436

Education: Evelyn Voulgarelis 631-727-0417

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eliasosprey@optonline.net

## Chapter Renewal & Membership

For \$15 a year, you will receive 6 issues of *The Osprey* and you will be supporting our local education and conservation activities.

**Membership dues will be going up on July 1, to \$20 per year.**

This is a  Renewal  New Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please be sure to include your email. You will receive an email confirmation, a pdf of the first newsletter and occasional updates and notices of any program changes. This list is not shared.**

Make check payable to: **Eastern Long Island Audubon Society**

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