



The OSPREY

September/October, 2006 – Vol. XXXVI No. 5

Nature Programs

Bob Adamo

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

Monday, September 11

7:15 PM – Nature chat

7:30 PM – Chapter news

8:00 PM – Speaker Lee McAllister
HIKING LONG ISLAND



You could describe Lee as a hiker and naturalist who also enjoys birding. He will discuss the geology, flora, and fauna of Long Island, highlighting what makes it such a great place to explore the outdoors.

Lee will show slides and take us through the seasons, describing many places to walk throughout Nassau and Suffolk. Marked trails will be the main topic, with the Paumonok Path that runs from Rocky Point to Montauk as the centerpiece. Local places to hike, wildflowers, birds, coastal plain ponds, glacial kettleholes, and erratics will all be shown. Copies of his book "Hiking Long Island" will be for sale.

Monday, October 2

7:15 PM – Nature Chat

7:30 PM – Chapter News

8:00 PM – Speakers Eco-Photo Explorers (EPE)
HERON ISLAND: ISLAND OF THE TURTLES

EPE was formed by Christopher Weaver and Michael Salvarezza to promote public interest in protecting the underwater environment. They have been scuba diving together since 1978, and their photography and writing have appeared in many journals including "National Geographic."

Their slide program is about Heron Island, located in the southern part of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Although it is a very small island, it supports huge numbers of seabirds and is home to nesting green sea turtles. This large species of turtle can be observed hauling itself up on the beach at night to deposit its eggs. When the eggs hatch, you can also see the tiny hatchlings as they try to evade predators and reach the safety of the sea.

Save the date for our sixth annual –

Benefit Dinner

◀ **Wednesday October 18 at 6:30**

◀ **Indian Cove Restaurant,
Hampton Bays**

◀ **Speaker - Kevin McAllister,
Peconic Baykeeper**

Join us for a delightful evening with a cocktail hour (cash bar) and a delicious dinner.

After a green salad with crumbled gorgonzola, you will have a choice of sliced New York steak with béarnaise sauce and garlic mashed potatoes, chicken roulade stuffed with spinach and mozzarella served with a potato croquette, or fish du jour over baby spinach and wild rice. Dessert will be apple blueberry bread pudding.

We will have a cash raffle with a \$200 first prize and a \$100 second prize. There will be 25 additional prizes – your choice of a print or book by renowned naturalist Dennis Puleston.

In his "State of the Bays" presentation, our speaker, Kevin McAllister, will talk about the health of Peconic and south shore bays, the effects that efforts of public and private agencies are having on the bays, and what can be done to restore our waters.

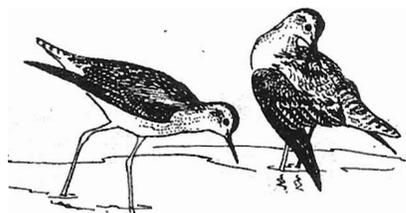
You can be a Bluebird Sponsor for \$50 per person in advance (\$55 at the door), an Eagle sponsor for \$75 per person, or an Osprey Sponsor for \$100 per person.

Invitations and raffle tickets were mailed in August.

Field Trips

AUTUMN ON SHINNECOCK BAY

Saturday, September 9



In mid-September, bird diversity is high along the south shore of Long Island. Summer nesters such as egrets, terns, and oystercatchers are still around. Meanwhile shorebird and songbird migrations are heating up. This 3.5 hour tour will coincide with low tide to enhance our shorebirding chances.

We will meet at 2 PM in the parking lot at the end of Dune Road in Hampton Bays, on the west side of Shinnecock Inlet.

OCTOBER – No field trip has been scheduled yet. As the time approaches, check our website for a possible trip in October.

For questions or directions, please contact Steve Biasseti at 631-537-1400 x15 (work), 631-874-4684 (home), or biafamily@optonline.net. All levels of naturalists – including beginners – are welcome. ELIAS field trips are free to the general public.

Sightings Report — Central Suffolk Breeding Bird Survey

Beth Gustin

Eastern Long Island Audubon Society has conducted a survey of local breeding birds each year for almost three decades. This compilation serves several important purposes in that the data can be used for conservation considerations, it is a source of pride for ELIAS to have acquired such a vast amount of data on local breeding birds, and it brings together members and friends of ELIAS in the field for some exciting late spring birding.

On June 17, a group of birders ventured into the towns of

double-crested cormorant
black-crowned night heron
green heron
snowy egret
great egret
great blue heron
glossy ibis
mute swan
Canada goose
mallard
long-tailed duck
American oystercatcher
willet
laughing gull
herring gull
great black-backed gull
common tern
least tern
black skimmer
accipiter species
osprey

northern bobwhite
ring-necked pheasant
rock pigeon
mourning dove
eastern screech-owl
chimney swift
ruby-throated hummingbird
belted kingfisher
red-bellied woodpecker
northern flicker
downy woodpecker
great-crested flycatcher
eastern wood-pewee
eastern phoebe
willow flycatcher
tree swallow
bank swallow
barn swallow
blue jay
American crow

Eastport and East Moriches for the Central Suffolk Breeding Bird Survey. Sixty-seven species were seen with some of the highest numbers of individual birds being mallard (142), double-crested cormorant (100), red-winged blackbird (96), and gray catbird (67). Some notable species seen were willow flycatcher, marsh wren, a solitary female long-tailed duck, green heron, ruby-throated hummingbird, and common yellowthroat.

A full list of species is provided below.

tufted titmouse
black-capped chickadee
white-breasted nuthatch
house wren
Carolina wren
marsh wren
wood thrush
American robin
gray catbird
northern mockingbird
cedar waxwing
European starling
black-and-white warbler
pine warbler
yellow warbler
common yellowthroat
northern cardinal
song sparrow
chipping sparrow
red-winged blackbird
common grackle

Baltimore oriole
house sparrow
American goldfinch
house finch



Black-and-white warbler

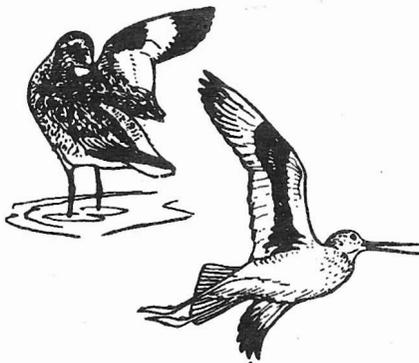
A July Walk in Cupsogue County Park

Mike Higgiston

July 8th was the date of the Eastern Long Island Audubon Society's first summer walk at Cupsogue County Park. Andy Baldelli led the intrepid group of eleven through the bayous of Westhampton. A total of 42 species of birds were seen, the highlights being roseate and black terns, salt marsh sharp-tailed and seaside sparrows, and clapper rail. But those weren't the only treats awaiting some.

We traveled to Dune Road courtesy of Madam President and her 1884 VW camper. It was a thrilling experience to attain 30 mph – downhill. Upon reaching Westhampton Dunes, we walked the bay shoreline in search of shorebirds.

We found willets, least and spotted sandpiper, oystercatcher, semipalmated and piping plover, short-billed dowitcher, sanderling, and red knot. Afterwards, we traveled to the Cupsogue flats and were forced to forge treacherous nine inch currents in search of unusual terns and were rewarded with looks at roseates. Some also saw a black tern. A clapper rail hunted along the shoreline, and we had flyover little blue and green herons and glossy ibis. Two loons swam in the bay.



Willets

Returning to the cars, we passed a pond whose surrounding marsh held many salt marsh sharp-tailed sparrows and a few seaside sparrows. Usually difficult to see, the sharp-tails especially were accommodating to the visitors. By the edge of the parking lot, an osprey nest hosted three ospreys. And, wonder of wonders, the only camper upon which the Wright brothers worked managed to get us home safely, if slowly.

Our next field trip, "Autumn on Shinnecock Bay," will be September 9th. Come join us!

Kaler's Pond Audubon Nature Center News

An Eventful Summer

With the onset of summer's heat, the nature programs started. Annette Oliveira has been doing the crafts and nature study programs.

On June 10th, we had a great evening to watch the sun set and the moon rise. Kevin McAllister entertained and educated approximately 50 people about bay ecology and the horseshoe crabs that were mating and laying eggs on the beach nearby.

Steve Biasetti and I went on the second annual NABA butterfly count and found 35 species, 7 more than last year.

Sadly, Richard Haley, the Audubon New York Head of Nature Centers and Education passed away as a result of his accident at the Grand Canyon. We plan to plant a tree to memorialize his contributions and his spirit.

A pair of Cooper's hawks nested and fledged two youngsters. You could still hear their cries at the end of July. Quite a good number and variety of moths and butterflies have been at the butterfly gardens, which have been expanded.

Future Events

- ❖ September 16 – Beach cleanup day for the American Littoral Society. If you can help, call Sharon Gilbert at 631-878-1467.
- ❖ September 30 – Help Sharon Gilbert with National Public Lands Day. We will work on removing Japanese Knotweed from Kaler's Pond.
- ❖ October 23 – The Wildlife Festival will start with a walk through Terrell River Park at 8 AM to look for migrating birds, butterflies, and fall flowers. We will meet at the Nature Center. A program from 1 to 1:30 PM will feature live birds of prey and reptiles, exhibits, and entertainment by Tim McHeffy.
- ❖ A fund raising dinner will be held in the spring.
- ❖ Konrad Grossman will build a bird blind at the Nature Center for his Eagle Scout project. This will go along with a greater variety of bird feeders.

Please contact us if you would like more details about any of these events.

Jay Kuhlman (SJKuhlman@aol.com)
www.kalerspondaudubon.homestead.com

Volunteer Profile



DANIEL WILSON

Dan may be the newest member of our Board of Directors, but he has been a familiar face at meetings and field trips for several years. Since joining the board last year, he has cheerfully pitched in to help with projects such as the seed sale, the Earth Day celebration, and the effort to protect horseshoe crabs.

Dan grew up in Patchogue, went to high school in Portland Maine, and attended college in Boston. He spent ten years in Dallas, Texas where he raised five children. He moved back to Long Island in 2000 and now lives in East Moriches with Allyson Dyer. They have two horses in the backyard, and once Allyson found out how handy Dan was with fixing barns and fences, she decided he should stay.

Most of Dan's childhood was spent on the water – boating, fishing, and sailboat racing – so it is not surprising that his first job was that of a Bayman harvesting shellfish. He is now employed at Brookhaven National Laboratory as a Technical Specialist, maintaining the integrity of the Ion Beam environment at the RHIC (the world's largest ion accelerator). As a fringe benefit, the lab's 5000 acres give Dan the opportunity to hone his birding skills.



His hobbies include RC airplanes, golf, duck hunting, fishing, and woodworking. A few years ago, he took up the art of stained glass, spending many hours in a basement studio with his cat creating beautiful work, often with bird and sea life themes.

Along with birding and kayaking, Dan has become a passionate salt water fly fisherman. He recently returned from the Bahamas, where he was successful in catching the elusive bonefish. His history on the water has made

him strongly resolved that our bays and waterways must be protected.

It was Dan's nightly striped bass fishing that led to his involvement with horseshoe crabs three years ago, counting mating pairs for the DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension. With this experience under his belt, he was quick to volunteer when Gigi Spates started a team to rescue horseshoe crabs this summer.

Anyone who knows Dan will attest to his sense of humor and positive spirit. He is a welcome addition to the board.

This is the sixteenth in a series of profiles designed to recognize volunteer contributions and help members get to know the people whose names appear regularly in this newsletter.

Congratulations Birdathon Prize Winners

Thanks to the generous Birdathon sponsors who pledged and donated money back in April. We randomly chose three people to receive a thank-you prize: Donald McKenzie, Clara Mae Ryder, and Eileen Schwinn. Some of the prizes our winners could choose from were Sibley field guides, bird feeders, stuffed Audubon birds, and DVDs. Congratulations and thanks again to everyone who participated in Birdathon.

Election Slate

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate:

President: Eileen Schwinn
Vice President: Beth Gustin
Treasurer: Evelyn Voulgarelis
Recording Secretary: Larry Sturm
Correspondence Secretary: John McNeil
Director: Shirley Morrison



The election will be held at the September 11th meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The new officers and board member will be installed at the October meeting.

Program Chairman Needed

We are looking for a Program Chairman to arrange speakers for our monthly nature programs. Mentoring is available. Contact Bob Adamo for more information at 369-1958.

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This newsletter reaches over 750 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

TOWN PERSPECTIVES



Three of the four towns we serve are now reporting in this relatively new feature. We are honored to publish these columns written by some of the most knowledgeable environmentalists on Long Island. Their insights provide unique snapshots of conservation issues in the region. We are still looking for a representative of Brookhaven Township to complete the group.

The Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve

Marty Shea, Chief Environmental Analyst
Town of Southampton



For centuries, the Shinnecock and Moriches Bays have been recognized for their sparkling waters, cooling summer breezes, and vibrant bird and marine life. Today, these one-of-a-kind natural wonders are acknowledged by New York State as being both a premier ecological haven and the economic mainstay of Long Island's east end coastal communities, as well as one of the most sought after summer destination areas in the State.

It is for this reason that the Shinnecock and Moriches Bays received one of their finest acclamations in 1993, when they were designated to be part of New York's Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER), a magnificent estuarine ecosystem stretching from the Nassau/Queens border to Southampton Town. This recognition led to the development and adoption of a regional comprehensive management plan in 2001, known as the SSER CMP, which put in place a vision for perpetual preservation of this great natural resource. The plan also opened a fabulous portal to a host of state funding and support for local waterfront revitalization initiatives in Southampton Town.

Maritime heritage interpretive center

Foremost among these is the planned creation of a maritime heritage interpretive center at the Shinnecock Canal, a plan being developed jointly by the Shinnecock Canal Maritime Heritage Center, Inc, the Shinnecock Canal Park Advisory Committee, the Town of Southampton, and the New York State Department of State. The planned learning center and park are to be built on three acres of Town-owned property on the west side of the canal, which have been designated as a significant waterfront destination or "South Shore Bayway" by the Department of State. The interpretive center will celebrate the area's rich maritime heritage and be an excellent site for increasing the public's

awareness and appreciation for both the Peconic and South Shore Bays.

Hard clam population surveys

State funding has also enabled the Southampton Trustees, who own and manage underwater lands in the Town, to survey and assess hard clam populations in the Quantuck and Moriches Bays. This information is vital to developing strategies to restore shellfish numbers, and to prioritizing where bay preservation and management needs are most critical. These survey efforts have further encouraged the Trustees to begin the process of preparing a watershed action plan for the Quantuck and Moriches Bays, an initiative also being supported and funded by the Department of State.

Marsh recovery

Marsh recovery efforts completed so far by the Town, as part of the reserve comprehensive management plan, include the creation of a tidal estuarine pond on the southeast side of the Ponquogue Bridge, which has become a great attraction for shorebirds and wading birds, as well as fiddler crabs and juvenile fish. The old Ponquogue Bridge area has also been revitalized as a boat launch, fishing pier, scuba diving area, and scenic viewing area, greatly enhancing public access and appreciation of the eastern Shinnecock Bays.

Other coastal projects

Other coastal projects include enhancement of bay water quality through roadway drainage redesign, and restoration of natural shoreland buffer corridors, as well as preservation planning along Dune Road, to encourage recovery of natural areas, ecologically minded recreation, and designation of dune and marine sanctuary areas.

Public support is needed

The SSER CMP will continue to chart the course for widespread conservation and recovery efforts throughout our bays, and therefore is of major importance to Southampton Town with regard to both our future quality of life and marine preservation. Enthusiastic support and participation from the public in such actions will, however, be the key to overcoming numerous challenges, as ultimately, the awareness and sensibility of all citizens, regarding estuary conservation issues, will be the most significant force for change in protection of our bays.

For more information about how to get involved, contact the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office at (516) 470-BAYS or view the reserve web site at www.estuary.cog.ny.us. A host of stewardship opportunities await you, as well as a wealth of information regarding this magnificent ecological reserve.

Preserving Riverhead's Open Space – Part II

Councilman George Bartunek



In the May-June issue of *The Osprey*, I gave an overview of the aggressive program that Riverhead employs to preserve the Town's farmland from development. Perhaps justifiably, it can be argued that from a purist's perspective, farmland should not be considered as true open space – that farmland has very limited ecological value. Regardless, the removal of development rights from farmland does protect the Town from the negative consequences of overdevelopment.

Formation of the Open Space Committee

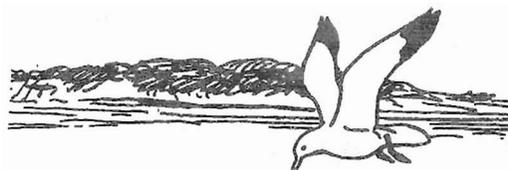
Until mid 2004, prospective purchases of the development rights for farmland and the potential acquisition of "true" open space were both the responsibility of the Farmland Select Committee. Fearing that the committee was biased toward the preservation of farmland over open space, a seven member Open Space Committee was formed to accelerate the preservation of open space. As with the Farmland Select Committee, the Town contracted with the Peconic Land Trust (PLT) to negotiate the purchase of open space parcels either through the outright purchase of the parcel or purchase of development rights.

In May 2004, on behalf of the Town, the PLT sent letters to 81 landowners of vacant parcels in six priority areas of the Town. Assemblage of these parcels represented priority areas that were previously designated by the Riverhead Town Board. From this initial mailing, 24 property owners responded. The PLT produced a series of maps showing the location of the parcels owned by the respondents, their proximity to other publicly owned open space areas, and other important resources such as water bodies or wetlands. The Open Space Committee considered each of the 24 parcels over the course of several meetings during late 2004 and early 2005. Site visits by committee members were conducted to determine the value of the various parcels for public acquisition. Subsequently the Committee voted on each parcel in question, either to pursue opportunities for acquisition (by ordering an appraisal and eventually making offers to purchase) or to remove the parcel from further consideration.

The Committee engaged in an aggressive outreach effort to target larger properties that were included on the Town Board's priority list. Such environmentally significant parcels included:

- Soundfront parcels with potential for assemblage with town owned or otherwise protected properties.
- Peconic Riverfront parcels with potential for assemblage with town owned or otherwise protected properties.
- Meetinghouse Creek and Sawmill Creek parcels.
- Boy Scout properties in Baiting Hollow and Wading River.
- Other significant properties in the Town's priority watersheds.

In conjunction with the Farmland Select Committee and the Riverhead Planning Department, the Open Space Committee was instrumental in organizing a "Land Preservation Strategies" conference in March 2005 that was well attended by property owners interested in the prospect of preserving open space, saving farmland, and estate planning. Topics that were discussed during the half-day conference included the purchase of development rights, the transfer of development rights, and the donation of fee title or conservation and/or public access easements.



In spite of these considerable efforts, the Open Space Committee has not been as successful in preserving open space as was originally anticipated. This is possibly a reflection of the fact that several prospective property owners were unwilling to negotiate a reachable purchase price, parcels may not have met the criteria for public access and recreation required for purchase with community preservation funds, and the fact that many significant properties are already protected from development, such as the Baiting Hollow Boy Scout Camp and the 4-H Camp.

Other Approaches

It should be pointed out that there are other mechanisms that the Town of Riverhead has adopted as effective methods to preserve open space. For example, during the late 1970's, the Town pioneered an inventory of all its freshwater wetlands and (with the exception of farmlands) has jurisdiction over control of development

Continued on page 8

within 150 feet of those wetlands. The Town recently adopted zoning regulations for the extended areas of the Town where the minimum residential lot size is limited to two acres that “require cluster development . . . to protect prime agricultural soils and scenic vistas without impeding agricultural land use . . .” In addition to preserving prime farmland, the location of woodlands, the location of natural features, steep slopes, and concerns for protecting natural drainage systems are considerations required of the Town’s Planning Board when reviewing residential subdivision plans.

If the Town’s zoning regulations were to be strictly applied, more than two thirds of Riverhead’s remaining farmland and open space in the two acre residentially zoned districts and the Agricultural Protection Zone would be preserved. Considering the fact that this land would remain on the tax rolls in addition to being preserved, this approach to land preservation is a very resourceful approach to land conservation.

The Open Space Committee has prepared the groundwork for future purchases of open space parcels in several priority areas and has developed an infrastructure for open space acquisitions by examining legal research into the Peconic River development restrictions, developing a systematic ranking criteria for individual parcels, and establishing a working relationship with Suffolk County, the Nature Conservancy, and other agencies in anticipation of partnering for the purchase of larger parcels that would not be affordable within the Town’s limited resources.

Becoming a Naturalist

Larry Penny
Chief, East Hampton Natural Resources



Why people become what they become is as much based on chance as it is on predilection. Why certain Long Island inhabitants became naturalists and almost everybody else does not is a mystery that has never been properly explained. There are hundreds of formally trained biologists on Long Island, but comparatively few naturalists. Biologists are generally salaried – naturalists work for little or nothing at all.

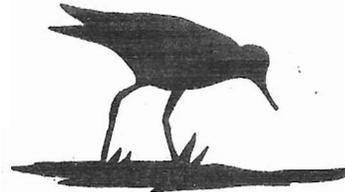
Growing Up in Mattituck

This naturalist doesn't know why he became one, but he has a good idea. When he was only four years old, he used to sit minutes on end in the little wood across from his house on Westphalia Road in Mattituck and listen for the sound of rustling in the leaf litter. Such a sound couldn't have traveled more than ten to twenty feet through the brush. When he heard one, he would quickly

proceed to its source. Nine times out of ten, it would be a turtle, a box turtle.

Later on in his life, while he was a pre-teen, his sister Margie would take him on walks along the banks of Mattituck Creek looking for flowering May pinks and wildflowers and perhaps a snake or two. During the warm months, there was always a fish hawk around uttering those piercing notes from on high and an occasional a chicken hawk trying to steal one of his grandfather's chickens from the farm next door. When the wild cherries ripened along the road, he and his sister and brother would gather them and crush them into a semi-sweet concoction and drink it. Little did they know at the time that a few years later, wild cherry soda would become a big hit and be manufactured and distributed by several bottling companies.

Growing up in Mattituck, walking a mile-and-a-half to school and back every day, riding a bike to the mouth of Mattituck Creek where it hits the sound, tending a garden, and working on the chicken farm was full of surprises from the natural world. Apparently they resonated deeply and added up synergistically.



The real jump into natural history came after our family moved into a big house on Middle Road in the community of Oregon west of Cutchogue. During a very cold winter with a lot of snow, my mother suggested I put bread on the ground to feed the sparrows. That was in the days shortly after World War II, when the idea of packaging and selling birdseed had not yet gotten off the ground. There was no bird seed to be purchased and no ready-built feeders to buy and fill with seed. Bread broken up on the ground sufficed. Bread did wonders. Soon the hard snowy surface was covered with masses of black starlings and an occasional sparrow. Once, a gull stopped in.

The family owned a couple of Kodak "Brownie" cameras, which were almost never used. I got film for one, loaded it up, and began to take pictures of the feeding birds. The camera did not have a telephoto lens, the film was black and white, and the pictures came back from Barker's drugstore after printing. There were birds in them alright, tiny dots against the white. But it was enough to get me started. Abruptly, I turned from shooting the birds, mostly English sparrows and starlings with my Daisy beebee gun, to feeding and photographing them.

While I was in Mattituck high school I walked, sometimes ran, back and forth a mile-and-a-half to school every day. Half the time it was along the shoulders of roads. Half the time it was across potato and cauliflower fields and by a little swamp that ran along the south side of the Long Island Railroad track. In winter, spring, summer, and fall, there were always little surprises to behold. Walking home across a barren field one January evening, I flushed a bunch of mourning doves. For the first time, I realized that not all birds spent the night in trees.

My parents gave me a Peterson's Field Guide. With the room lights turned out, the music teacher, Walter Williams, played the Kellogg-Allen recorded bird songs put out on an LP by Cornell. I got an Argus C3 camera and a pair of prismatic binoculars at one of those cheapie camera stores on 42nd street. During regents week in my senior year, instead of studying, I was up at the Mattituck inlet on the Baily's Beach side every day in June, counting and photographing piping plovers, least terns, and spotted sandpipers and their chicks. It turned out to be the biggest waterbird and shorebird nesting area on the North Fork (i.e., until the US Corps of Engineers got a hold of it about twenty years later).

Those few days at the rookery turned out to be crucial. While I was photographing and counting, a man with a fine pair of binoculars came by. He also had a slide rule in a case that hung from his belt, an instrument which fascinated me as I had never seen one before. It turns out he was a mechanical engineer, and when I told him that I had enrolled in the five-year mechanical engineering program at Cornell, he told me how hard I would have to work. Engineering was a most difficult field. His crisp expressionless demeanor and his cautionary words of wisdom were enough to send me home immediately on my bike. I told my mother that I was not going to be an engineer. I was going to switch to zoology, well actually wildlife conservation, which I did.

The Influence of Other Naturalists

Before I got to Cornell, however, the biggest influence on my life came in the form of an already established Long Island naturalist and one of the few practicing nature photographers, Paul Stoutenburgh of Cutchogue. He was giving a slide show of birds and wildflowers to a church group and my father happened to see the little blurb announcing it in the Long Island Traveler--Mattituck Watchman. I went, saw the slides, met Paul, and from there it was all down hill, i.e., there was no turning back.

Paul would take me on his photographing trips all over eastern Long Island, such as a trip to the South Fork in late March to photograph killdeer and horned lark nests. He used a blind and a camera through a peephole. The

camera was a Leica he managed to keep afloat when his ship sank off New Guinea in the latter part of the war in the Pacific. We would both go into the blind, I would walk out in an obvious way, the birds would come to the nest, and Paul would snap them. Blinds on the ground led to blinds in trees in Jamesport inside a black-crowned night heron colony, where Paul shot both black and yellow-crowned night herons.



Black-crowned
Night Heron

Paul also knew all of the other great Long Island naturalists who were active at the time and took the trouble to introduce me to them – Roy Latham, Roy Wilcox, Chris McKeever (who also sold nature books on the side), Dennis Puleston, Gil Raynor, and Art Cooley. None of them made a living as naturalists. Latham was a potato farmer, Wilcox a duck farmer, McKeever a lawyer, Puleston a PR person for Brookhaven National Laboratory, Raynor a meteorologist at the lab, and Cooley a high school teacher. Paul, himself, was an irrigation system salesman, insurance salesman, and industrial arts teacher. Nobody made a living at being a naturalist. I was also profoundly influenced by a naturalist-professor at Cornell University, Dr. Fisher.

It is ironic, perhaps, that the last great photography junket with Paul was one to Cartwright Shoals off the south end of Gardiner's Island by canoe in July of 1954. The place was loaded with breeding terns, common terns, least terns and, I believe, roseate terns, although at the time I thought they were Foster's terns. Even more impressive were six or seven ground nests, about four to five feet high, of ospreys. Obviously the shoals had not overwashed for several years, because the nests were several years old. (It wasn't long after when Hurricane Carol, the first big storm of the 50's, came along and washed out the shoals and a whole bunch of other stuff along eastern Long Island's shoreline.) We spent a few hours photographing the terns and the rest and headed for home.

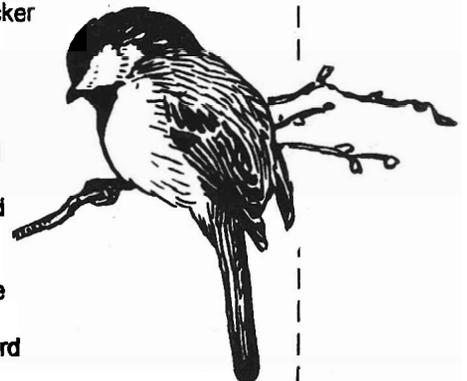
I said ironic, because now, 50 years later, the Natural Resources Department of East Hampton, where I work, takes care of those terns on Cartwright shoal and gets paid to do it. I might be the first Long Island naturalist who ever got a regular salary for doing natural history work on Long Island – as of this past July, 23 years of it.

FEEDER SURVEY REPORT FORMS

Mail **immediately** after each survey period to: Marybeth Stembler, 11 Pinedale Rd., Hauppauge NY 11788, or to send via the internet, go to: www.easternlongislandaudubon.homestead.com and 1) Click on *Chapter Projects*; 2) Click on *Feeder Statistics*; 3) Click on *To submit via the Internet, etc.*

Survey Dates: November 5 – 12, 2006 Name _____ Address _____ Town _____ Phone _____	Survey Dates: October 1 – 8, 2006 Name _____ Address _____ Town _____ Phone _____																																																																																																																																								
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PLEASE JOIN US. We would welcome your help in the monitoring the birds in our area.

- Record the highest number of species you see in your count area at any one time.
- Don't include birds seen off premises or just flying through your area.
- Don't add counts from previous sightings together.
- Estimate the number of birds if there is a large number. Everyone has a different idea of the size of a "flock."
- Be specific with the species, e.g., don't use sparrow,

- blackbird, or gull, etc. We need to know what kind.
- Send in surveys even if you only saw common birds. It is just as important to record the usual species as it the unusual birds.
- Don't worry if you miss a survey because of other commitments, or if you can only watch before work, on weekends, etc. Your participation will still enlarge our database.

Thanks to All Feeder Survey Participants – 2005 - 2006

Jean Bass, Moriches
 Steve, Tom & Regina Biasetti,
 Manorville
 Phyllis Bronzo, East Patchogue
 Gloria & Bob Brown, Brookhaven
 Cindy I DiMaggio, Shirley
 Karen Donohue, North Patchogue
 Allyson Dyer & Dan Wilson, East
 Moriches
 Lee Frei, Shoreham
 Mike Garlin, Brookhaven
 Eleanor Grist, Remsenberg
 Beth Gustin, East Moriches
 Joanne Hart, Southampton
 Gus Hindenlang, East Moriches
 Thomas Kattau, Patchogue

Nadine Kissel, Remsenberg
 Susan & Jay Kuhlman, Center
 Moriches
 Ruth Levine, Aquebogue
 Margaret & Bill Liehr,
 Southampton
 Susan Little, East Quogue
 Eileen Loiacono, East Moriches
 Jeanne & Julian MacKay, East
 Quogue
 Robert Murray, Westhampton
 Eileen Oakes, Yaphank
 Rosemary & Dan Oldham, Mastic
 Anthony F. Raiona, Mastic
 Susan Ritchie-Ahrens, Wading
 River

John Roberts, Moriches
 Gigi & Don Spates, Southold
 Joanne Spitznagel, Shirley
 Roy Stegeman, Riverhead
 Marybeth Stembler, Hauppauge
 Susan Toplitz, East Patchogue
 Scott & Diane Vanisko, Eastport
 Kelly Wallace, Lake Grove
 Mike Walsh, Manorville
 Karen Weber, Wading River
 George & Betty Wybenga, Center
 Moriches
 Jackie Zagon, Eastport
 Helen Zurawinsky, Wading River

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 Al Scherzer, Past President – 728-2898
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 KP Nature Center Liaison, Al Scherzer
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 Nature Chats, Steve Biasetti
 Hospitality, Ridgie Barnett,
 Feeder Survey, Marybeth Stembler
 Feeder Survey Stats, Edgar Stembler
 Field Trips, Steve Biasetti
 Publicity, Peggy Caraher
 Web Master, Annette Oliveira
 Sales Corner, Mike Nelson,
 Bluebird Restoration Prog. Gigi Spates

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 Riverhead 11901
The next deadline is October 1.

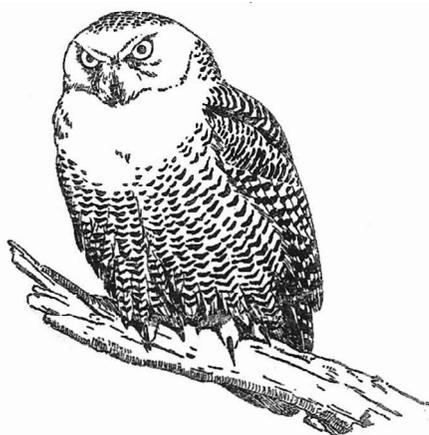
Events Calendar

September

- 9 Field Trip Shinnecock Bay – p2
- 11 Nature Program – p1

October

- 1 Feeder Survey – p10
- 2 Nature Program – p1
- 18 Annual Benefit Dinner – p1



*Also see Kaler's Pond
 NatureCenter events on pg 3..*

Our Vision in a Nutshell – To be an inspiration to those who feel a sense of kinship about Long Island by encouraging an appreciation for the natural world and a commitment to the environment.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

For \$15 a year, you can 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.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Make check payable to Eastern Long Island Audubon and mail to ELIAS, PO Box 206, East Quogue, NY 11942-0206, Attn. Membership

Please consider sending gift memberships to your friends.

**EASTERN LONG ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY – *From the Barrens to the Bays*
Serving Eastern Brookhaven, Western Riverhead & The Hamptons
EasternLongIslandAudubon.homestead.com**

Annual Seed Sale

Please consider stocking up on bird seed at this sale which will benefit both ELIAS and the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. An advance order form will be included in the next issue of this newsletter. Seed can be picked up at the Refuge on the sale dates – November 18th and 19th.

Invitations will be mailed in August, and there will be more information in the next issue. We hope to see you there.

“The Osprey” is on the Web

This newsletter is now accessible through our website, thanks to the efforts of John McNeil and Annette Oliveira.

Attention National Audubon Members

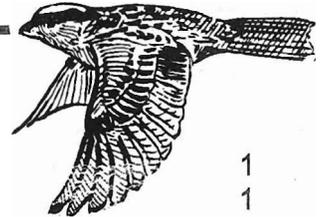
If you have paid chapter dues of \$15 a year, the mailing label on this newsletter will identify you as a CHAPTER SUPPORTER, you will continue to receive six issues a year, and we thank you.

As we explained in the last few issues, chapter dues are needed to pay for printing and mailing the newsletter. If you decide not to pay chapter dues, we regret that we will only be able to send you one issue of the newsletter a year – the September/October issue.

If you have not paid chapter dues yet, and you would like to receive 6 issues a year, please use the application form on page 11. However, even if you decide not to pay chapter dues, you will always be welcome at our meetings, field trips, and other events, which are posted on our website.

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