



# The OSPREY

May/June 2009 — Vol. XXXIV No. 3

## Field Trips John McNeil

**A**pril through June, I think, is the most exciting time of the year for birders. In late April spring migrants begin their trek northward to their nesting grounds.

Our trip leaders have put together a field trip schedule for the month of May and the beginning of June so, together, we can catch the wave of spring migrants heading north. Please join our trip leaders on their exciting adventures and enjoy nature at its best. There is a small charge for the May 16th trip, but all other trips are free and open to everyone. **So, come on along.**

### **Saturday, May 9 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 Estates' historic grounds of fields, woods, creeks and marshes. Bring binoculars for this 2 mile roundtrip 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, May 16 at 9:00 am** **Hallockville Farm &** **Jamesport State Park,** **Sound Ave. Northville (Jamesport)** **Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont**

Traverse the varied habitats of the old Hallock farm and the woods and dunes of the new Jamesport State Park. Peak migration time for neotropical species such as thrushes, vireos, warblers and more. Breathtaking views of Long Island Sound

and surrounding farms. Roundtrip walk about 2 miles. Fee charged (\$5-\$6) helps the educational programs of the Hallockville Museum. Call 631-298-5292, or MaryLaura Lamont at 631-399-2030. Program ends by 1:00 pm.

### **Sunday, May 17 at 9 am** **William Floyd Estate, Mastic** **Trip leader: MaryLaura Lamont**

Peak migration time at Estate brings hundreds of birds through the varied habitats of fields and woods. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Wood Thrush, Ovenbirds, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, and Great-crested Flycatchers are just some of the birds sighted on last year's walk. Bring binoculars to find the spring gems of the air! Roundtrip walk 2 miles. Bring tick repellent. Use Main Entrance Gate on Park Dr., Mastic. Call 631-399-2030 for further info. Program ends by 1:00 pm.

### **Saturday, May 23, 2009 at 8:00 am** **Terrell River County Park** **Trip Leader: Jay Kuhlman**

Join us for a 3-4 hour walk through the varied habitats of Terrell River County Park as we look for migrant and resident species including Blue-winged, Black and White, and Pine Warblers, Marsh Wren, Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat, and White-eyed Vireo. Other species seen here in the past are Blue Grosbeak, Blackburnian Warbler, and Salt-marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. We will meet at 8:00 am at the trailhead, located on the south side of Montauk Hwy., opposite the Kaler's Pond Audubon Center and Flight 800 Memorial Park in Center Moriches. Contact Beth Gustin for directions and questions. 631-848-9883.

### **Sunday, May 24 at 7 am** **Hunters Garden** **Trip leader: Carl Starace**

Come one, Come all, for this Grand Tour of Hunters Garden at the peak of our bird migration. Wear appropriate clothing—light long sleeve shirts, long pants and sneakers. If you use tick spray, be sure to bring it along. Perhaps a snack and water bottle as well. We will spend a couple of hours looking for all sorts of warbler species, thrushes and other specialties of the season! We will meet at 7 am on May 24th at the CLEARING within Hunters Garden. For directions call Carl at 631-281-8074, or e-mail: castarace@optonline.net

### **Saturday, June 6 at 6 am** **Doodletown Road at** **Bear Mountain State Park -** **Trip leader: John McNeil**

Doodletown Road can be an exciting place to visit during the spring migration. Our trip will be near the end of spring migration, the main focus will be on resident species such as the Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker and other species that are not commonly seen on Long Island. Driving time to this site is 2 to 2.5 hours. We will leave at 6 am from the east end of the parking lot (now a Park & Ride) at the old Home Depot store along the Sunrise Hwy at Rt 112 in Patchogue. We return in late afternoon. Please bring a lunch and water. Our stops will be very brief. For additional information you may contact your trip leader John McNeil at 631.281.2623 before the trip or on that day, mobile phone 631.219.8947 or e-mail: jpmcneil@verizon.net

## NATURE PROGRAMS

Monday May 4, 2009

### The Eastern Bluebird

Not only is the Eastern Bluebird the official bird of New York State, but it is also one of the most attractive and beloved. Did you know we have them right here on Long Island, "under our noses," so to speak! For the past decade ELIAS volunteers established Bluebird nest box trails to increase the population on Long Island.

Where can you see bluebirds? Are they here the year-round? What are some of their behaviors? Come learn about these charming, colorful members of the thrush family. Gigi Spates, ELIAS's Bluebird chair, will answer all your questions.

Monday June 1, 2009

**This program will start at 7:30 pm**

### Migrating Shorebirds

Joe Giunta is a retired NYC teacher, avid birder and one of three very active "Jones Beach Boys." He will discuss the shorebirds that migrate through the metropolitan area.

He is an excellent educator and enjoys sharing his knowledge. He leads trips for NYC Audubon, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and South Fork Museum Natural History Museum. He also leads trips to Panama.

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

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

**If you have a program you would like to present or know of someone to recommend, please call Bob Adamo at 631-369-1958.**

## FROM THE FIELD.



### Montauk Point Carl Starace

February 21st took the group to Montauk and environs: Ditch Plains, Lazy Point, Napeague and Hook Pond. Bright sun, stiff wind and great visibility. There were fair numbers of all three Scoter species, a few Common Eider out at the Lighthouse with dozens of Common Loons all round the Point. We had no luck finding the female King Eider there nor at Ditch Plains but did have 16 Purple Sandpiper (above) close in, taking advantage of the low tide in front of the East Deck Motel. There were also 12 Bonapartes Gulls just beyond the breakers. Duryeas Pond at Fort Pond Bay held a dozen Ring-necked Ducks but we found nothing of note at either Culloden Point or the jetties. Out at Lazy Point at Napeague Harbor there were 7 Horned Larks, 2 Blackbellied Plover and dozens of Dunlin and Sanderling. Rich Kaskan and I stopped at Hook Pond in Easthampton and had nice looks at 3 juvenile Tundra Swans, a pair of Common Mergansers and a Piedbilled Grebe. Good February Birding,

### Massapequa Preserve & West End of Jones Beach John McNeil

During our field trip to Massapequa Preserve, our winter visitors were still around. In the lower Massapequa lake, we observed all three Merganser, the Common, Red-breasted, and the Hooded. It was nice to see the Common Merganser, usually I see them in Montauk Lake, not locally. A pair of Green-winged Teal were working the lake, swimming back and forth in front of us. We also saw the other

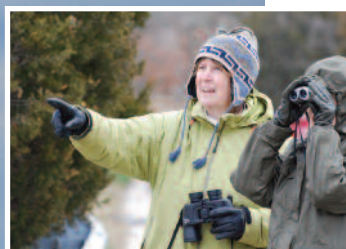


common species which winter around here. Our Spring migrants seemed not to have arrive, but we gave it a good try.

### To Orient Point

At Maratooka Lake, we watched 3 Shovelers at the far end of the lake, which is one of MaryLaura's favorite. We were surprised to see Northern Gannets flying over the bays at several locations and

delighted by the many Osprey that have returned. An Icelandic Gull (left) at the Southold Town Beach was our most unusual bird of day. At Southold and Orient there were several Common Loons in breeding plumage. - editor



## Membership Corner

John McNeil

Spring has finally arrived. The crocuses in my flowerbed have started to sprout; the forsythia bush and the maple tree in the front yard have started to bud and the early morning songs of the songsters have begun.

In the last issue of *The Osprey* we printed a Spring Migration Timetable. This is your bible of the approximate times the different species of birds begin to appear. The familiar early morning choirs of the AMERICAN ROBIN, MOURNING DOVES, SONG SPARROW, CHICKADEE'S and the continuous mimicking of the MOCKINGBIRD are sure signs that the spring migration is well on its way.

The spring migration starts in late February and ends in late May. During June, July and sometime into early August the birds are breeding. Some species after breeding in June do not stay long on territory and start heading back as early as late July. But for now I will concentrate on the spring migration.

If you take a drive over to Swan Lake in Patchogue, the PURPLE MARTINS and TREE SWALLOWS will be flying over the lake. In the pine trees above one could hear the song of the PINE WARBLERS, along the road side fences you can see and hear the continuous chipping of the CHIPPING SPARROW. Now, how do I know where to look and find birds? Simple, each species has their own little niche, that is, where they breed and forage for food. It is very unlikely you will find SWAMP SPARROW in an upland field away from the coastal edge. And it is also unlikely a CHIPPING SPARROW will be found in a swamp. How do I know this? We call it **Habitat Birding**.

*Editor's note: The Purple Sandpipers at Montauk were a perfect example of Habitat Birding. Their behavior was notably different from most other Sandpa-*

*pers as they perched on the rocks and floated as the waves came in.*

An excellent book that I found many years ago was *"The Habitat Guide to Birding"* by Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. It is an easy to read and a great book to supplement your birding field guide. Each chapter includes different birding habitats, a description of the species of birds that forage in that area plus some birding hints to make your out-

.....  
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 without even turning your head.  
 .....

ing enjoyable. Some of the chapters are "Birds of Fields and Meadows," "Birds of Brushy Borders" and "Roadside Bird Watching." These and more make for enjoyable reading. Another text that I can suggest which is specific to Long Island and is published by the Sweetbriar Nature Center in Smithtown. "A Seasonal Guide to Bird Finding on Long Island" will give the reader a seasonal account of what to see at different times of the year with specific location and descriptions. I personally feel this is a must for every Long Island birder and car.

Another tool in your arsenal of birding is a set of bird tapes or CD's. "Birding by Ear" and "Backyard Bird Song" from the Peterson Field Guide Series are excellent teaching aids. A great way to enhance your birding identification. Just think, when you are at the water edge and you hear a "conquereee," you know that is the call of a RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD without even turning your head. The "witchery-witchery-witchery" is a YELLOWTHROAT, and the song of a

CHICKADEE is "fee bee." If you happen to hear something that sounds like "Drink-your-tea-ee-ee-ee" a Eastern Towhee might be hiding in the bushes. Think how it would be if you are taking an early morning walk with friends and from the bushes ahead you hear "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody," and one of your companions ask: "What is that?" You just say it is a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW and continue walking.

Birding guidebooks I think are a personal preference. Each individual will settle on one and that is it. I think you should have several; each text will give a different slant of what each species will look like and enhance your identification skills. Just like your first girl or boy friend, my favorite guidebook is "Birds of North America" by Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun and Herbert S. Zim. It was my first and signed by the illustrator Arthur Singer when he came to a Moriches Bay to give a presentation. Other excellent guidebooks are the Peterson Field Guide Series along with National Geographic to mention a few. The new kid on the block is "The Sibley Guide to Birds" and this one I keep in the car as a reference because it is too big to fit in my pocket.

At the last board meeting it was suggested that an e-mail notification list be established to our membership so that they could be kept informed of up and coming events such as field trips and other important information that was not published in our newsletter. The logistics still have to be worked out, and you will be notified and given the opportunity to participate by supplying your e-mail address. More will follow as we sort out the details.

Before I leave, please check [www.li-birding.com](http://www.li-birding.com) for the latest spring arrivals or call the New York City Rare Bird Alert at 1-212-979-3070.





## Looking for Observers and Volunteers!



**E**LIAS has been providing the DEC with numbers of the horseshoe crabs observed and the locations so they can compare the results from year to year. This helps in setting the harvest amounts.

So if you like to take a stroll on a local south shore beaches at sunset during the high tides of May 9th and June 7th, please note how many horseshoe crabs you see and the location of the beach. You can phone or email the results at the end of each month to ELIAS Board member Dan Wilson 878-9037 or [dwilson@bnl.gov](mailto:dwilson@bnl.gov).

### Why the concern?

Shorebirds depend on the horseshoe crab eggs as a rich source of food during migration and nesting season. The Red Knots in particular are experiencing declining populations. Over the eons the Red Knots, who travel from the tip of South America to their Arctic breeding grounds, have timed their stop-overs on the eastern shores of the US to coincide with the horseshoe crab breeding season. The Red Knots stop to refuel all along Delaware Bay up to Cape Cod Bay before continuing their 9,000 + mile trip. The crabs produce an abundance of eggs, the birds have provided a natural control for the horseshoe crab population.

### Harvesting Horseshoe Crabs

The crabs are harvested all along the shores of Long Island. And, no you will not see horseshoe crab on the menu anywhere. They are used for bait, fertilizer and medical research.

New York State issues permits to catch horseshoe crabs only to crabbers who already have a crabbing license. There are just under 400 licenses granted. That license will allow the crabber to take from 30 crabs per day in the beginning of May and working up to 250 per day from September through November. Approximately 170,000 horseshoe crabs will be taken in the course of the season. If the DEC sees that the threshold is reached, they will put a moratorium on the haul.

If you see someone you think may be violating the law, you can call 1-800-DEC-TIPS. The 24/7 number is 1-877-457-5680. Please give as much detail as possible, location, license plate number (if a vehicle is involved), time, date etc. Please do not be confrontational.

According to the NYSDEC there are no out-of-state licenses granted.

Many states, including New Jersey, have banned harvesting horseshoe crabs.

## From Kaler's Pond Nature Center

Jay Kuhlman

The Sunday programs at the library were well attended averaging 25 to 30 people with many people interested in field trips.

**Earth/Arbor Day program** will be April 25th from 1:00 until 3:00 pm.

**The Nature Center** will be open Thursday through Sunday starting mid-May. Adam McHeffey will be back again with regularly scheduled programs. Check the web site for times and dates.

There will be a spring migrant walk through the Terrell River Park at 8 am on Saturday, May 23rd. (details on page 1).

There will be a summer camp type program from July 6, 7, 9, and 10 and July 20, 21, 23, and 24 at the Nature Center from 9 am to noon. These were quite well attended last year.

The butterfly and wildlife gardens are growing and worth a visit.



## Summer Bird Count —Join Us—

**ELIAS's Breeding Bird Census  
June 6 through June 21**

Our Breeding Bird Census is more than a quarter of a century old. It follows the methods and collects data just like Christmas Counts—only it's warmer—and just like them, we need people to help look and listen for birds. This census covers a big circle from western Mastic/Southaven Park through eastern Westhampton, and from just north of Grumman in Calverton through parts of Fire Island/Dune Road. Please contact Gigi Spates at 631-765-1436 for more info.





## On the Road... If its February, it must be Florida

Eileen Schwinn

February 2009 found me lucky enough to be in sunny Florida for two and a half weeks! The first week was spent on the eastern coast, with the lovely home of my friend, Sue, in Sebastian, as a home base. This is the third year we've had the opportunity to escape the cold north, and bird for a week—visiting with longtime friends, both human and avian. We traveled to Viera Wetlands (Least Bittern and Crested Caracara), Joe Overstreet Rd, Lake Kissimmee (Whooping Cranes), Merritt Island (Roseate Spoonbills), DuPuis Wildlife Management Area (Vesper Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks and many lovely Painted Buntings), and inland to a private sanctuary on a field trip sponsored by the St. Lucie Audubon Society, where Indigo Bunting and again, Painted Buntings were the big stars! On the drive back to Sebastian, we were lucky enough to spot and study a Snail Kite as well as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

The following week was spent on the eastern coast, not far from the Ft Myers area. Trips to Corkscrew Audubon Center (Barred Owls, and Swallow-tailed Kites), Ding Darling NWR (Reddish Egret—one of my absolute favorite birds!!), and Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area (Eastern Bluebirds and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers galore!), and a number of other "Pocket Parks". In addition to birds, we saw a rattlesnake, feral hog, cougar, armadillos, and possibly a bear—possibly because we saw—through the thick overgrowth—a large black animal descend from a tree, all the while making a great deal of noise. We didn't stick around, deciding to quickly trot away in the OPPOSITE direction.

For anyone planning on a similar trip next winter, the free booklets available from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (obtainable through [www.floridabirdingtrail.com](http://www.floridabirdingtrail.com)) are a must! And be sure to contact the local Audubon Societies—they are a wealth of information and very nice people!



Roz James, former ELIAS president (left) and current ELIAS president Eileen Schwinn (right) got a chance to spend some time together.





# ELIAS On the Road... Beth Gustin in South Florida



## At Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Top three photos: Beth at Corkscrew, Great-blue Heron and watch your step! That's a GATOR!

## At Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge


Left: Roseate Spoonbills are cooperative subjects as were the White Pelicans and assorted shorebirds (below).





## At Everglades National Park



Clockwise, Tree Swallows fly en-mass over the Everglades, while the rangers conduct a controlled burn. A Green Heron waits for a fish, as does the Wood Stork. Is that Eastern Phoebe on its way north yet! The Osprey on a nest in Florida might just be one of our Long Island Ospreys. 



## Five Campers receive scholarships to attend environmental camps

**ELIAS** has awarded camp scholarships to five students who have demonstrated an interest in the environment. They will attend DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) Camps for one week. Sarah and Alexa, age 16, will attend Pack Forest Camp in the Adirondacks, and 13 year-olds Michael M, Micheal S and Victoria will spend a week at Camp DeBruce in the Catskills.

We are confident that these young people will have a lot of fun while bringing conservation concepts to life.

The camp scholarship program has been an ELIAS priority for many years. Past campers have consistently given their camp experiences rave reviews and bring their experiences and new ideas back to our community.

If you know of a student in grades 7 to 12 that might be interested in this program for next summer please look for the application the December issue of *The Osprey*.



## Conservation Column Beth Gustin

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

Many of us birders also enjoy gardening. This spring and summer, why not combine these two hobbies? There are several ways that you can make your garden bird-friendly. And what is good for the birds is also good for bees and butterflies.

You can start by planting flowers that attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies in the summer:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| salvia            | butterfly weed   |
| aster             | goldenrod        |
| purple coneflower | bee balm         |
| tall phlox        | black-eyed susan |
| thistle           | milkweed         |
| sunflower         |                  |

The seeds of the coneflowers, black-eyed susans, phlox, and goldenrod provide a food source for finches in late summer and fall. By not dead-heading these plants in the fall, you will supply a winter food for White-throated Sparrow, Juncos, Cardinals, and other ground-feeders that will benefit from seeds and insects that remain in the leaf litter in your garden.

Another very important way to help birds, insects, and other wildlife in your garden is to eliminate the use of pesticides. Remember that birds and their nestlings eat the insects that are targeted by these chemicals. And some of the pesticides and fertilizers that you use on your lawn and in your garden eventually end up in our bays and rivers.

Last but not least—supply a water source for birds. My birdbath in East Moriches continues to attract a wonderful variety and abundance of birds. And don't forget to keep the birdbath clean. A good brush-scrubbing 2-3 times a week will do the trick—no cleaning products are necessary—especially not harmful chlorine bleach.

For more help making your yard bird and butterfly-friendly:  
[www.audubonathome.org](http://www.audubonathome.org)  
[www.butterfly--garden.com](http://www.butterfly--garden.com)  
[www.thegardenhelper.com](http://www.thegardenhelper.com)




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### Chapter Renewal & Membership

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

This is a  Renewal  New Membership

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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, no we do not share this list!**

Make Check payable to: **Eastern Long Island Audubon Society**  
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# Native Species or Invited Guests

Larry Penny

Many birds have come to eastern Long Island to settle since the mid-1900s. Most were southern range extenders like the Mockingbird, Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, but at least one, the Great Black-backed Gull came down from the north. Wild Turkeys were reintroduced after an absence of a couple a hundred years in 1992 on the South Fork and elsewhere, and have been getting on famously since. Last year a pair of Turkey Vultures nested in Montauk and fledged two young. Southern sea turtles are more and more common in the waters around the Forks in the summer, but not one has nested on our beaches successfully. A green turtle tried to lay eggs on an Amagansett ocean beach about ten years ago, but failed. Several freshwater aquatic turtles from the south as let-gos from the pet trade have established in many of our ponds. The bull frog may be the only amphibian naturalized on Long Island, while most of the freshwater fish found were the result of early stockings. A Long Island native, the southern leopard frog, has evidently become extirpated since last recorded on Long Island only seven years ago. Recently, a tropical marine fish, the lionfish, has established a Long Island beachhead and, apparently, is now breeding in our south bay waters. As for invertebrates, the green crab is an old interloper, the Asian shore crab, a new one.

Except for a few marine mammals, like the harp seal and gray seal, and a freshwater

aquatic mammal, the river otter, no new mammals have established as residents on Long Island. Black bears were gone shortly after or before the advent of post-Columbian contacts, wolves, once common, and serving as Native American pets, disappeared by the 1700s. Beavers, bobcats, and otters, trapped into extinction for their pelts, were gone by the early 1800s. The latter is making a comeback in northern Nassau county streams. There are varied reports of mountain lions wandering around, but not one has been photographed or captured. Red foxes came here after contact, indeed, several were imported from Europe for fox hunt purposes, and in most of Long Island have replaced the gray fox, which has been here since long before contact. The Norway rat, brown rat and house mouse came over on European sailing boats in the early 17th century and have flourished since. We are all waiting for the influx of the coyote, it should happen any year now.

As with the river otter's appearance there have been lots of local Long Island mammal happenings in the new millenium. A pod of common dolphins came into Northwest Creek east of Sag Harbor—most died, a few made it out. A lone beaver found its way to Scoy Pond on the Grace Estate in East Hampton and set up housekeeping, gnawing through several tupelos, red maples and oaks, before leaving a couple of years later. Notice that it's the aquatic mammals that seem to be returning, not the terrestrial ones.

On March 26 and March 28, while driving west on CR 39 on the South Fork I ob-

served two adult woodchuck road kills. (I've been recording all drive-along road kills since 1980, and these were the first woodchuck recorded on the South Fork.) Various individuals had told me about this new development, dating back to the turn of the century, but I had yet to see one, dead or alive. Last year a dead flying southern flying squirrel was found on Barcelona (= Russel's Neck) east of Sag Harbor. Flying squirrels are not uncommon in the Pine Barrens, but none have established on the South Fork, as far as we know. Before the Shinnecock Canal, there was a small stream connecting the Peconics with Shinnecock Bay; it may not have been much to look at it, but probably was effective in keeping the woodchuck and flying squirrel at bay.

The skunk used to be one of the more common mammals on the South Fork (my father used to trap them behind my grandfathers chicken farm in Mattituck on the North Fork in the early part of the 20th century). One hasn't been seen here for more than 25 years. Woodchucks and flying squirrels are both trapped live by nuisance trappers who release them far from where they got them. That may explain the appearance of these two species on the South Fork. Skunks are very rarely live trapped—for obvious reasons. If one were trapped live west of the canal, who in his right mind would transport it for release more than a couple of few feet from its origin.



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**Save the Date!**


# Birdathon — Saturday, May 9th


**W**elcome to Eastern Long Island Audubon Society's twenty-fifth annual Big Day of Birding! Set for Saturday, May 9th, 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 9th is to raise money for our organization. The Birdathon is an important fund raising event for Eastern Long Island Audubon. This year, your Birdathon contributions will support the EPCAL Grasslands Fund, and the Kaler's Pond Audubon Center in Center Moriches.**

**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 the 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 of whose identity you are certain, and 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 9th.

 And fourth, you can join one of our teams out in the field for part or all of the day. All levels of birdwatchers—including beginners—are invited to participate in the Birdathon.

**If you would like to take part** in any of the ways mentioned—or have questions about the event—please contact Beth Gustin (roogus@aol.com or 631-848-9883).

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## Birdathon — May 9, 2009

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

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ .     My check is enclosed.  
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**Mark Your Calendars!**

**May**

Monday, May 4	<b>Nature Program: The Eastern Bluebird</b>	<i>See page 2</i>
Saturday, May 9	<b>Field Trip: William Floyd Estate</b>	<i>See page 1</i>
Saturday, May 9	<b>BIRDATHON</b>	<i>See page 10</i>
Saturday, May 16	<b>Field Trip: Hallockville Museum Farm</b>	<i>See page 1</i>
Sunday, May 17	<b>Field Trip: William Floyd Estate</b>	<i>See page 1</i>
Saturday, May 23	<b>Field Trip: Terrell River County Park</b>	<i>See page 1</i>
Sunday, May 24	<b>Field Trip: Hunters Garden</b>	<i>See page 1</i>

**June**

Monday, June 1	<b>Nature Program: Migrating Shorebirds</b>	<i>See page 2</i>
Saturday, June 6	<b>Field Trip: Doodletown Road at Bear Mt</b>	<i>See page 1</i>
June 6-21	<b>Summer Bird Count</b>	<i>See page 4</i>

Trips to look forward to in the next issue of *The Osprey*

**Dune Road Early Returning Shorebirds** Eileen Schwinn in July  
**East Islands of Moriches Inlet** John McNeil in August  
**Hummingbird Sanctuary, Wading River** John McNeil in August

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