



# The Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society Newsletter

Serving from Fort Salonga in Suffolk County to Oyster Bay and Centre Island in Nassau County

Volume 12, Issue 3  
September - December 2024

## Letter from the Editor

*By Alexandra Martinez*

The mission of the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society is to protect wildlife and preserve habitat through conservation action, advocacy, and education. This chapter territory serves both Huntington and Oyster Bay townships with its all-volunteer chapter 501c3 non-profit established in 1961.

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Summer is such a beautiful time of the year. The flowers are bright and showy like tropical birds of paradise in the best gardens. The beaches are populated with laughter of adults and children alike - and splashing, and happy screams, and all the sounds of summer fun. Everyone's a little tanner, a little more patient, and a little more likely to slow down and experience nature during the summer season.

Long Island is full of such wonderful sights to see in the summer months - especially sightings of different feathered friends. This summer during my walks around the Centerport Mill Pond, I have seen both the Great Egret and the Little Egret (which I originally mistook for a baby Great Egret). Once this summer on the historic Mill Pond, I even got to see the Great Blue Heron hunting for fish - which is a relatively rare sight (I think you'll see the Eagles more than the Great Blue Heron there). I also saw a Great Blue Heron out in Calverton too. He was fishing in a man-made pond in a golf course and pulled out a frog and although I cannot be one-hundred percent certain... I believe the heron ate the entire frog. I learned there are eagles out in Calverton too; it seems their population is increasing a lot at various locations throughout Long Island.

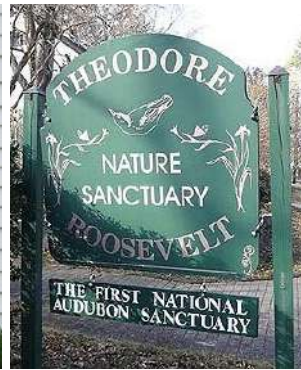
While on strolls past the pond at Knollwood, near Fleets Cove, you can see the single Black-Crowned Night Heron guarding the turtles of the pond at the head near the stream. He stands, scrunched and lonely and reminding me of the Hunchback of Notre Dame, on his one skinny leg. And from late Spring into early summer I got to see a mother swan keep her eggs warm, protect them from high tide, and hide her babies under her wing. Each and every one of these experiences - no matter how many times they happen - are absolutely breathtaking.

And of course, whoever else is a Centerporter like me sees the Canadian geese - every day - and sometimes you even have to wait for them and their families to cross Center Shore Road. Some days, when they're taking their sweet time it can take a while, but there's nothing like stopping to smell the roses or to see the geese. In fact, not only is it uplifting to watch the family, the mother, father and all of their goslings cross the road, but it's also absolutely mandatory. There is nothing more upsetting or disturbing than learning that one of the ducklings - or one of the parents - has been murdered by a vehicle and left on the side of the road. It is your responsibility as a citizen of the world to slow down for animals crossing. So that's my Public Service Announcement to end this piece: SLOW DOWN FOR NATURE, AROUND THE MILL POND, AND EVERYWHERE, ALL SEASONS, ALL THE TIME! THANK YOU!



# Another Season in the Books - 2024 Summer Camp Scholarships!

By Michael Frank



Another huge round of applause this summer for Canon U.S.A., Inc., a leader in

digital imaging solutions, and headquartered right here within the town of Melville. Once again, for the 2024 Summer Camp Season, Canon U.S.A., Inc. enthusiastically sponsored the Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society's Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. With this generous support, HOBAS was able to offer more youths the experience of attending a week-long summer session at a local nature camp. The scholars who earned summer nature camp



opportunities loved their nature-based learning, including the natural surroundings and the guidance of experienced outdoor educators. Establishing a love and appreciation for nature is an important value to instill in a young child's life; those engaged in outdoor, hands-on activities and purposeful ecology and environmental related experiences allow students to have fun while gaining valuable nature-based knowledge. Children participated in outdoor, hands-on activities and environmental ecology-related experiences through games, crafts, and interpersonal activities.

Thanks to the charitable donations made by our members, additional donations, and our sponsorship with Canon U.S.A., Inc., HOBAS has provided 20 scholarships to nature-inclined kids. Scholarship participants attended nature-based camp experiences at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center's Summer Nature Camp and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Sea Explorers Marine Camp. A lot of coordination is involved with our partners to get these scholarships at these camps and their respective community's outreach networking is incredibly involved. We are grateful to have these successful collaborations with groups who are passionate about seeing today's youth engage in meaningful outdoor educational experiences. Enhancing HOBAS' mission to educate and inspire the next generation to appreciate and care for birds, plants, wildlife, and habitats is something we feel strongly about. Thank you to our friends at Canon, our members, our host-camps for the opportunities, and for all donations made in support of HOBAS' Summer 2024 Scholarship Initiative! We cannot wait to see what we are able to make happen for any interested children next year!

# Slow Birding Across the Generations

By Barbara Suter, a retired ESL teacher and enthusiastic bird lover from Huntington, NY

There's a new focus in the world of birding called "slow birding" which to me essentially means learning more about birds by slowing down and more closely observing the behaviors and characteristics of birds we are already familiar with. I first truly experienced slow birding this past winter as I sat for hours in my kitchen looking through the double glass doors trying to differentiate amongst the many swallows who visit our feeder all winter long. Sometimes it was very frustrating and I would give up, but mostly it was exhilarating to watch the same flock of birds for several days in a row. I also spent a few sunny days in my front yard learning to identify bird calls with the Merlin app which is very helpful. Developing these practices has definitely added depth to my bird watching experiences.

A recent stay in the hospital got me thinking - a lot - about the impact nature has had on my life. My hospital room, located on one of the upper floors in a corner room, had windows on both sides. To my great delight, I could only see the top third of the trees surrounding the hospital and watch them swaying in the winds and rainstorms. The trees also provided good cover for the local birds flitting in and out of the treetops. I told my family "I feel like I'm living in a treehouse!" Needless to say, those trees and birds provided a good amount of comfort to me during a harrowing period of my life. Without meaning to be morbid, the cancer center I go to weekly for treatment provides another example of how comforting a quiet appreciation of nature can be. The center was intentionally built in a lush setting. Sitting in a chair above the gardens, while being administered my dose of chemo, is much easier to tolerate when the view out the window is, again, the treetops. Kudos to those who had the foresight to build the hospital in such lush surroundings. It really makes a difference.

Both recent experiences have strengthened my belief in enjoying nature at turtle speed. I became a birder almost 30 years ago after a lovely walk and search for winter ducks led by an avid Audubon bird watcher and educator on a brilliantly cold day. I have never looked back. I am not a marathon birder looking to complete my life list, but over time I have become an ambassador for making bird watching a hobby. During Covid, my daughter and I enjoyed many long walks together observing the various species of ducks present in our local waters on the North Shore of Long Island. We have surely become more adept at spotting them and identifying them after several years of patiently paying close attention to their unique features. Oh, and I should add that when my kids were younger, every Sunday I took them on a hike in what I called "the church of nature," a ritual that has stayed with them to this day.

I am happy to say that my daughter, now a marine conservationist and director of a local conservation organization, loves winter duck watching so much that she now offers an annual winter duck walk and talk for locals interested in learning more about winter bird watching. She and her partner now spend almost every weekend in various natural settings across Long Island where they frequently identify and add new species to their own mental catalog of birds. In fact, she knows more than I do about birds at this point and she shares her knowledge with me.

Most surprisingly to me, my husband who never had much of an interest in birding, has also become an avid bird watcher. He often now says "I can't wait for the winter ducks to arrive." This past year, his daily walk before he signed onto his remote job meant a walk to our nearby harbor to see what he could spot. Now, everywhere we go we look together for familiar and new bird species. And now, the best news... My five-year-old granddaughter has begun to enjoy looking out through our sliding doors in our kitchen, watching the bird activity at the feeder. On her last visit, I gave her my binoculars and she loved them... she kept putting them up to her eyes and observing everything around her.

Now I am searching online to find a decent pair of children's binoculars for her to use so she can have her own when she visits grandma and grandpa. Having spent most of my life learning slowly about the natural world, I now can appreciate the beauty and variety of what surrounds me. I've come to the realization that I have been slow birding for the past four decades while sharing my enthusiasm and limited knowledge over the years with my family. For us, as a family, slow birding is second nature. We revel in time spent anywhere in nature and the creatures who inhabit those spaces.

When my granddaughter makes her next visit and I give her the binoculars, my heart will jump with joy when she puts them up to her eyes and begins searching for our backyard birds. Who knows? Maybe one day she, too, will pick up the hobby of slow bird watching and share that gift with someone she loves on their walks in the "church of nature."



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon  
PO Box 735  
Huntington, NY 11743

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Huntington, NY  
Permit No. 546



**Membership Application**

**Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society**

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

Please consider joining or renewing your membership to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, a local, all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) chapter. Your membership directly supports HOBAS' mission to advocate for birds, wildlife and habitat through conservation efforts and educational outreach. You will receive our newsletter and an open invitation to field trips and events. Thank you for supporting HOBAS with your membership!

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

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

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

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Details:

**New HOBAS member**, chapter only annual \$20.00       **Renewing HOBAS member**, chapter only annual \$20.00

**Additional Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society**

Send your check and application to: **Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 735**

**Huntington, NY 11743-0735**



# Annual BIRD SEED FUNDRAISER

## October 26th, 2024 10am-4pm

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

Early Bird pick up: Wednesday Oct 23rd- Friday Oct 25th 10am-6pm

Wild Birds Unlimited, 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset 11791 (516)-226-1780

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Description	Price Per Unit	Total Price
	20 lb No Mess Blend	59.00	
	20 lb Deluxe Blend	39.00	
	20 lb Black Oil Sunflower	39.00	
	40 lb Black Oil Sunflower	74.00	
	20 lb Whole Sunflower Kernels	59.00	
	20 lb Safflower Seed	49.00	
	20 lb Nyjer (thistle) seed	49.00	
	20 lb Finch Blend	54.00	
	20 lb Shelled Peanut Splits	49.00	
	Case (12) of 11.75oz Naturally Nuts Suet	42.00	
	Case (12) of 11.75oz PB&J Suet Cakes	42.00	
	Subtotal		
	<i>Seniors 10% discount</i>		
	<i>Additional contribution</i>		
	<b>Grand Total</b>		



**To download additional order forms** and for more information about our events and programs, visit us at [www.hobaudubon.org](http://www.hobaudubon.org)  
**Thank you for supporting us!**

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon's conservation and education initiatives.

**Please circle day you plan to pick up your order:**

Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

**Orders must be received by Friday, Oct 4th, 2024**

**RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS - PLEASE RECORD ORDER ON BACK OF THIS SLIP**

Please pick up your birdseed order in Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset. Your birdseed will be transferred to your vehicle by our staff and volunteers. **Seed not picked up by 4pm Oct 26th will be donated.** Extra seed, as well as gift items and bird feeding supplies can be found in store. **If using GPS, enter 625 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset for directions.** Please make check payment by Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 payable to Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society. Mail to:

**HOBAS Bird Seed Sale**

PO Box 735

Huntington, NY 11743

Please contact Michael Frank, HOBAS Treasurer, at (631) 252-1082 should you have any questions.

# Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon - Annual Bird Seed Fundraiser

## Seed Descriptions:

- **No Mess Blend**– A high-quality, no-waste mix without shells. Contains 65% medium sunflower chips, 15% diced/chopped/small peanut pieces, 10% hulled white millet. Will attract most winter feeder birds including nuthatches, woodpeckers, cardinals, juncos, white throat sparrows and titmice.
- **Deluxe Blend** – A combination of high-oil content seeds with shells. 63% black oil sunflower, 25% white millet, 10% safflower, 2% striped sunflower. attracts a large variety of birds.
- **Black Oil Sunflower** – A favorite of almost all seed-eating birds, your feathered friends will happily fill up on this high fat seed.
- **Whole Sunflower Kernels** – Whole sunflower seed kernels. No shells, **no waste**. An excellent feed. Everyone loves this.
- **Safflower Seed** – The cardinal’s choice! Glossy white seeds are the **favorite food of cardinals**. Also eaten by chickadees, finches, and doves. Ignored by squirrels, starlings, and blackbirds. An excellent seed for year-round feeding.
- **Nyjer (Thistle) Seed** – Tiny black seeds for goldfinches and pine siskins. Nyjer must be placed in a special feeder with tiny holes. Nyjer is ignored by squirrels and starlings. Use your Nyjer feeder year-round.
- **Finch Blend:** A 50/50 mix of Nyjer and fine sunflower chips, which helps attract even more birds to your finch feeder such as chickadees and downy woodpeckers.
- **Shelled Peanut Splits** – Peanuts are the best single source of protein and fat for birds and a great addition to the choices you offer in your yard. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, blue jays, tufted titmice and chickadees love this!
- **Suet Cakes** – Each 11.75oz cake fits in a wire suet cage. High protein and fat content with no waste, no fillers and real fruit! Woodpeckers love suet and so do other birds!

***Reminder - All orders due by Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2024. Thank you for your continued support!***

## It is always a good idea to keep feeders clean by following these steps:

1. Clean feeders and bird baths with soap and water at least once a week, then disinfect with a 10% bleach solution to prevent potential infectious disease spread between birds and other wildlife. 2. After cleaning, rinse well with water and allow to air-dry. 3. When handling bird feeders and baths be sure to wear disposable gloves and wash your hands when finished. 4. Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a standard precaution. 5. To dispose of dead birds, place them in a sealable plastic bag and discard with household trash. This will prevent disease transmission to other birds and wildlife.

Source: NY Audubon

## For Customer Use: Record your order here.

Qty	Description	Total
	20 lb No Mess LM Blend	
	20 lb Deluxe Blend	
	20 lb Black Oil Sunflower	
	40 lb Black Oil Sunflower	
	20 lb Whole Sunflower Kernels	
	20 lb Safflower Seed	
	20 lb Nyjer (thistle) Seed	
	20 lb Finch Blend	
	10 lb Peanut Splits	

Qty	Description	
	Case (12) Naturally Nuts Suet	
	Case (12) PB&J Suet	

### Customer Reminder

Please circle the day you plan to pick up your order

Wednesday, October 23rd

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

# An Appeal for a Different Type of “Donation”

By Julie Sullivan, [www.GoNativeLI.com](http://www.GoNativeLI.com)

Because I know that our Audubon Society members love the birds as much as I do, it is for this reason that I am reaching out. Please help provide the native berries, seeds, and nuts our birds recognize, enjoy, and have evolved with over the centuries.

Unfortunately, usually what birds find are monocultures of invasive plants from other continents, such as multiflora rose and autumn olive shrubs, trees of heaven; and vines - including porcelain berry, Asian wisteria, Oriental bittersweet, and Japanese honeysuckle - that have taken over our parks and backyards. If you want to help birds, learn how to identify and remove the invasives and then plant Long Island natives.

I invite you to join us at Huntington’s Carpenter Farm Park at 55 Old Field Rd, Greenlawn, opposite Oldfield Middle School, and enjoy a hands-on learning experience of removing invasive plants so our natives can grow. Since I’m there most days, just text me at 631-662-7135 with a day and time that works for you.



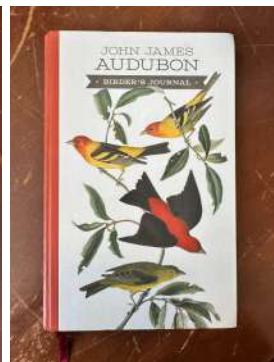
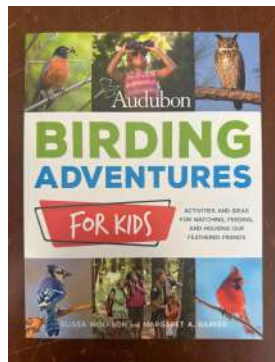
## Birding Borrow Bag Available in Greenlawn - Soon in Bayville!

By Alexandra Martinez

Many of us on the Board of Directors at HOBAS are involved in many community related-activities and organizations. I for one am also a part of the Greenlawn–Centerport Historical Association (GCHA) whose office is located within the Harborfields Public Library. Our office, run by Executive Director of the GCHA Sarah Brown, now has a Birding Bag for you to borrow (and soon, the Bayville Public Library will have one too)!

**The Birding Bag at the GCHA Office includes the following items:**

- a small nature-themed backyard to use as a carryall
- two birding adventure guides geared towards children
- a pair of adult size binoculars
- a pair of child size binoculars
- an Audubon Birder’s Journal for you to record your findings
- a Greenlawn–Centerport Historical Association pencil for your recordings



Stop by the office to sign the Birding Bag off for your next local nature adventure. If you’re planning to visit places near the Harborfields Public Library, some great local parks to explore are: the Betty Allen Twin Ponds Nature Preserve, Phragmites Park, Heron Park at the Mill Pond, the Edwin and Gertrude Grace Nature Preserve, the Makamah Nature Preserve, the Uplands Farm Sanctuary, and Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge.

When you check the bag out for use, you’ll complete the log including the date, your name, telephone number, email address, and expected date of return so we can let the next borrower know. The Birding Bags should not be on loan for longer than a week to ensure fair and accessible use. As a special treat for our members and readers, whether you want to come and borrow the Birding Bag or not, stop by the GCHA Office at the Harborfields Public Library, and meet Tom the Swan, a taxidermied swan from the early 1900s who loved the Mill Pond at Centerport and Huntington Harbor the most. He is rumored to have been a circus swan for P.T. Barnum, the circus extraordinaire! Visit Tom the Swan and show this newsletter to the GCHA director for a Harvey Weber greeting card set as a token of your visit (he was the director of photography at Newsday and each card presents a different nature spot on Long Island). The GCHA Office is open Monday through Friday, 10AM to 1PM at 31 Broadway, Greenlawn (library).

## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

**Sunday, October 13th, 2024; 9:00 AM**  
**Heckscher State Park, East Islip**

A late fall excursion here will be sure to uncover some lingering songbird and shorebird migrants and early arriving waterfowl. But the real treat should be the migrating butterflies that travel along the dunes, drinking from the seaside goldenrod flowers. We may even be able to catch and tag a few for scientific research. We will begin in the Field 2 Parking lot and proceed from there.

**Sunday, November 10th, 2024; 9:00 AM**  
**Sunken Meadow State Park, Kings Park**

The best birding spot on the North Shore. We may see wintering waterfowl, resident songbirds, and birds of prey. You never know what is going to turn up. Directions: take the LIE or Northern State Parkway to the Sunken Meadow State Parkway north, all the way to the end and park in Lot 1.

**Sunday, December 8th, 2024; 9:00 AM**  
**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens**

Jamaica Bay is known for its world-class birding all year. In winter, the waterfowl diversity is unmatched and who knows what unusual species may turn up. Take Cross Bay Boulevard south from the Belt Parkway. Meet at the Visitors' Center.

**Sunday, December 22th, 2024; 10:00 AM**  
**Pelham Bay Park, Bronx**

It's time for our annual seal walk in the Bronx. Finish the birding year observing seals in the Bay along with a wide assortment of waterfowl in this NYC park just a few minutes off the Whitestone Bridge. Meet in the NE corner of the Orchard Beach lot. Bring a scope if you have one.

**REGISTRATION IN ADVANCE IS REQUIRED WITH DR.COBY  
KLEIN : 585-880-0915.**

*All participants must [print and sign a waiver](#) to be provided upon arrival*

## **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM!**



### **FULL MOON BEACH PROGRAM**

Wed., Sept. 18th, 2024  
5:00pm-6:45pm

#### **Rain Date:**

Thurs., Sept. 19th, 2024  
5:00pm-6:45pm

### **Crab Meadow Beach**

445 Waterside Road,  
Northport, NY

Join us on the beach as we celebrate the full moon! The September full moon is also known as the Harvest Moon. In this program we will play a fun scavenger hunt game while exploring the beach. We will also learn about how the moon affects the tides and all the creatures who make the beach their home.

For ages 5-9, accompanied by a caregiver. Registration is a must. To register, please call or text Tess at 631-896-2872.

**Please visit our website & social media for updates & additions to field trips & programs!**