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The BIRD CALL

Newsletter of the Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.

BRSS Annual Meeting June 6th Honoree is Henry May

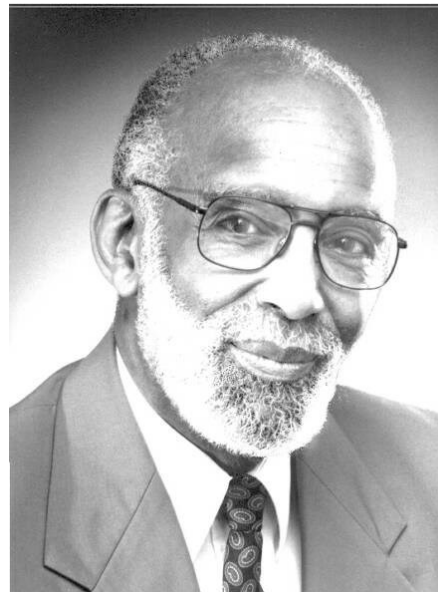
By Sandy Morrissey

Five Island Park will be the beautiful setting for our Annual Meeting, thanks again to the very generous hospitality of the New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation. The business meeting begins at 6:30 P.M., with an optional guided bird walk at 6:00 P.M.

It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with other members. Wine and cheese plus other light refreshments will be served. All BRSS members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Henry May is tireless Mt. Vernon community activist

We are honoring Henry, not only for his contributions to BRSS Audubon, but his tireless efforts to help the community of Mt. Vernon. He is involved in count-



less community organizations and efforts to better the life of the people who live there. His keen interest in troubled youth led him to be a founder of the Mt. Vernon Parent and Community Forum on Education, an organization dedicated to getting parents involved in

their children's education.

This organization led Henry to his involvement with BRSS when he asked John Moyle, our president at the time, for advice about birds for his parent/child project building birdhouses. John was so impressed with Henry that he asked him to join our board.

Since joining in 2005, he has contributed in many ways, including helping youngsters build nestboxes for our bluebirds and helping with our bird program in the Mt. Vernon schools. A graduate of NYU and now a retired New York City educator and curriculum specialist, Henry continues to contribute his many talents and energy for the betterment of humanity. We are so lucky he came into our Audubon family!

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How many 2nd graders does it take to have a wing span of a Bald Eagle?

BRSS AUDUBON

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and Committee Members**

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*Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.
is a chapter of the National Audubon Society
serving the communities of
Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale,
Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New
Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale, and Tuckahoe*

BRSS Annual Meeting June 6th

Continued from page 1

Thanks to Departing Board Members

Going off our Board are two very hardworking members. Orlando Hidalgo is moving to Naples, Florida this spring. An avid birder attending most of our field trips, he was a dedicated monitor for our bluebird project and wrote spirited reports of our field trips for the newsletter. We will miss his enthusiasm, but know he will love the prolific bird life in Florida.

Bonnie Gould will remain a major contributor to our mission, but is going off the board due to time constraints. She will continue to be one of our dedicated bluebird nest monitors, and also continue her big contribution teaching in our

bird program in the Mt. Vernon schools. We thank Bonnie for her continued help.

Election of Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS members will be asked to vote approval of the following slate of Directors for the class of 2016: Bernie Conway, Cece Fabbro, John Flores and Henry May. John Flores, new to the board, is an active birder and photographer.

We hope to see all BRSS members on June 6th at Five Island Park in New Rochelle.



Welcome New Members

Bronxville

Andrea Braunstein
Mary Cartelli
Ernestine Colombo
Tucker Kerman
Constance Silverman
Alfred J. Sticca

Eastchester

Steven Chananie
Howard F. Straw-
bridge

Hartsdale

Hannah Greenwood

Larchmont

Margaret A. Friberg
Alice Hefler
Arthur Katz
Ada Korn
Robin Liebowitz
Mary Mergroz
James Smith

Mamaroneck

Alex Cranstoun
Michael Finerty
Charles Fitch
Nigel Holloway
Jessica Mollin

Mount Vernon

Richard Isaac
Melisa Stasinos
Janet Sugar

New Rochelle

Paul Basch
Nicolas Fabian
Francine Gerace
Melanie Kogan
Vicki Lopachin
Karen Mackler
Carole Pierorazio
Karen D. Porter
Cindy Tangorra
Jessica Umbro
Matthew Umbro

Pelham

Theresa Donovan
Chrissy W. Ek
Kathryn Hanson
Hernando Rodriguez

Scarsdale

Denis Andreuzzi
Catherine Behrend
Josh Griffen
Wendy M. Gross

James Kaye

Robert Marafioti
Daniel Miller
Helen M. Oja
Anish Patel
Rita Sabbarese
Joan S. Weissman

Yonkers

Charles Prinz

PROGRAMS 2013

PLEASE JOIN US! PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

All programs are co-sponsored by Central Westchester Audubon

Evening programs will begin with refreshments at 7 pm and the program begins at 7:30 pm.

April 24, Wednesday - Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History

Presenter: Carol Gracie is a naturalist and photographer. She is retired from The New York Botanical Garden. After marrying a tropical botanist, Carol decided to work with her husband on botanical research projects in South America. Carol is a co-author, with her husband Scott Mori, of the two-volume *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central French Guiana*. She has five newly discovered plant species named for her. After working for two decades in the tropics, Carol's original love of temperate flora was rekindled, and in 2006 she co-authored (with Steve Clemants) *Wildflowers in the Field and Forest: A Field Guide to the Northeastern United States*. Her latest book, *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History*, was published in March of 2012.



The wildflowers that brighten our woodlands in spring are more than just a delight for the eye and a lift for the winter-weary spirit. Each has a role in the environment, with often interesting interactions with pollinators and seed dispersers. Learn about the life histories of some of your favorite spring wildflowers. Topics will include adaptations for early blooming, medicinal and other uses, the origin of wildflower names, and pollination and seed dispersal.

Location: Harrison Public Library, 2 Bruce Ave., Harrison.
Time: 7:00 pm.

May 22, Wednesday—The Arctic

Presenters: Andy and Jane Cahn.

Andy and Jane Cahn, two seasoned educators and world travelers, offered us a most informative and interesting presentation on their trip to Antarctica this past year. They have recently returned from a trip to the Arctic and have agreed to share that experience with us as well.

No penguins this time . . . but plenty of polar bears!

Location: Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester. Time: 7:00 pm.

Thank You for Your Continued Generosity and Support - Seed Sale Report

I want to thank all of the customers who bought birdseed through our February seed sale. Since this is our main fundraiser during the year, we appreciate your continued support. Our profit on the second seed sale was \$3053.83. Proceeds from the seed sales go towards sending kids to the nature camps in the county parks, printing of our newsletter, and for our wonderful programs that are presented throughout the year. The total profit for the two seed sales this year is \$6556.93. This is our best ever.

Again thank you.
Birdseed Chairman
Doug Bloom

The BRSS Audubon Board would also like to acknowledge those who gave donations through the seed sale this year.

Louise Abel, Elaine Abrams, Sheema Bhattacharya, Doug Bloom, Chris Broda, Ann Byers, Robert Canora, Warren Douglas, Cece Fabbro, Elaine Faver, Ed Fennessy, Steve Frantz, Kristin Friedman, Lu Gmoser, Clare Gorman & Jeff Zuckerman, Ruth Gyure, Gloria Havender, Emita Hill, David Kaufman, Lois Kroll, Alice La Sala, Don La Sala, Thomas Leissl, Lika Levi, Valerie Marini, Scott Mellis, Harriett Miller, Ruby Morgan, Diane Morrison, Sandra Morrissey, Peggyann Munnick, Wendy Murphy, Susie Oppenheimer, Anne Owen, Drew

Panko, Judith Pinals, Neil Powell, Elizabeth Poyet, Wilma Reidy, Barbara Roca, Vern Schramm, David Seal, Lorraine Slingerland, Mark Stotsky, Laura Lee Strasser, Lynne Teplin, Peter Thorp, Linnet Tse, Ellen Valle, Marilyn Varley, Connie Welling, Bob Wirsneck, Phyllis Wittner.



Youth Birding

By Dave Kaufman

The Youth Birding Group of BRSS Audubon held its March field trip on the 16th at Crestwood Lake in Tuckahoe. We had a nice turnout of junior birders, all equipped with binoculars and field guides. Crestwood Lake, which is part of the Bronx River Parkway Restoration, paralleling the Parkway. We identified several species of waterfowl including the Hooded Merganser, Green Winged Teal, and our favorite, the beautiful Wood Duck. The approach of spring was heralded by the sightings of Red Wing Blackbirds, and the American Robin. The next Youth Birding Group outing will be held on April 13th, 9:00AM at the Sheldrake Environmental Center, located at the Larchmont Reservoir, off Weaver St. Youngsters, ages 5-13 are welcome to par-

ticipate in our Youth Birding events accompanied by an Adult. Binoculars and Field Guides are available to participants during the walks.



Youth Birders spot a Wood Duck on field trip to Crestwood Lake.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

All field trips begin at 9:00 a.m. For help carpooling to locations, contact Dave Kaufman (dkaufman43@gmail.com).

April 13 – Sheldrake Environmental Center/ Larchmont Reservoir—early spring migrants and water birds. Meet in parking lot of upper entrance opposite sign that says Westchester Water Works Plant.

May 11 – Rye Nature Center – woodland birds and spring warblers.

June 8 - Kensico Cemetery – banding nesting bluebirds (meet at cemetery office, 273 Lakeview Ave., Valhalla).

Youth are our Future Conservationists

By Sandy Morrissey

I'm encouraged by the efforts we've made to engage children in our Audubon mission. As you can see from the pictures in this newsletter, we have reached out to many through different avenues.

Our Youth Birding Club continues to attract avid young birders. Though they are few in number, these youngsters find us and are most happy to have a peer-friendly group to share their interest in birds. We now are encouraging adults new to birding to join our low-key, slow-paced strolls at local birding hot spots. A schedule of future field trips is listed in the above article.

We are repeating the Mt. Vernon school bird program which we initiated last year, increasing the number of 2nd grade classes to five and reaching about 125 children. We hold five sessions, each with a theme such as "What Makes a Bird a Bird?" Thanks to a grant from NY Audubon, we got the Greenburgh Nature Center to bring live birds to the classrooms – always a highlight of the program.

Our Eastern Bluebird Project offers lots of ways to

engage children with birds. While building nestboxes or helping with banding, our youngsters learn much about bird biology and the need for conservation efforts to protect our feathered friends.

As is often the case, we currently have a White Plains High School student doing a scientific research project using our bluebird nestboxes. We'll be helping a Scarsdale Girl Scout with her Silver Award project, which will be teaching other scouts about birds. And, we just spent a Saturday morning helping a Webeles Boy Scout troop earn their naturalist badge.

All these youngsters will run the world someday. I'm optimistic that they'll be taking good care of the environment.

Arielle Hazi testing if fake blue wings will attract bluebirds to nestboxes.



FIELD TRIPS for BRSS/CWAS 2013

Please Contact Doug Bloom at (914) 834-5203 for info or to register. Meet at Scarsdale Village Hall unless otherwise specified

April 21, Sunday - Sterling Forest
Meet at 7:15 am at Village Hall. Will be looking for early spring migrants, such as warblers, vireos, and other land and songbirds.

April 28, Sunday - Rye Nature Center with Bedford Audubon
Meet at 8:00 am at the nature center parking lot. We will be looking for

early migrants, warblers and other songbirds that are passing thru.

May 5, Sunday - Central Park
Meet at 7:30 am at 77th street at statue across from Museum of Natural History. Will be looking for spring migrants such as warblers, orioles and others.

May 19, Sunday - Doodletown Road
Meet at 8:00 am at Doodletown Road. Best place to see Cerulean Warblers nesting and other migrants.

June 7-9, Adirondack Weekend trip
We will try to see many of the northern forest birds such as Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker and Gray Jays.



Recent Field Trip Adventures

We encourage all to join our field trips. They are free and the birders leading them are very knowledgeable. Here is a list of two recent field trips and what was found:

Jones Beach - January 6, 2013

On a very nice winter day, a happy group of birders from the BRSS group went on our annual field trip to Jones Beach. In attendance was myself, Doug Bloom (trip leader), Neil Powell, Johnny Flores and my devoted S.O.B. (Spouse of Birder) wife Vicky. We met at Doug's house in Larchmont. We met up with a few other BRSS members at Jones Beach. We had 48 species of birds, of which some of the highlights were, Northern Gannet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler and Snow Buntings. We had a great day birding and being with friends on a brisk and sunny day. Jones Beach has great habitat for birds in winter and any time of year. Reported by Orlando Hildago.

Edith Read and Marshlands - March 17, 2013

On a late winter day 15 participants saw 40 species of birds. Some of the highlights were a Barred Owl, three male Wood Ducks, and some Horned Grebes on the sound side at Read. Reported by Doug Bloom.



Barred Owl at Read Sanctuary

Facebook and Blog

Be sure to check out our BRSS Audubon Facebook page. We are posting notable local bird sightings, interesting articles, events, and other current information. We are listed under Bronx River—Sound Shore Audubon Society of Westchester.

Sandy Morrissey is blogging about her adventures along the Bluebird trail. If you are interested in keeping up with her results go to <http://bluebirdtales.wordpress.com>. To the right is a photo Sandy posted on March 28, 2013. If you want to know what Sandy has to say about this pair go to her blog.



**Bronx River-Sound Shore
Audubon Society, Inc.**

(formerly Scarsdale Audubon Society)
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