



EST. 1947

The BIRD CALL

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

Join Us for BRSS Annual Meeting on June 4th Honoree is Doug Bloom

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.

Honoree Serves Audubon

Doug Bloom has been involved with Audubon since age 9, when his brother got him interested in birds. He went on field trips with our chapter, then known as Scarsdale Audubon.

Doug has been active ever since. He has served on the Board for 15 years and currently is in his 5th year as President. After accepting this big job, he still continues as our Field Trip Leader and Seed Sale Chair.

His position as Seed Sale Chair began in 2000, and since then he has

single-handedly raised over \$30,000 (selling over 60,000 pounds of seed). Thanks to Doug's efforts, we can send children to nature camps, hold educational programs and buy materials for our Eastern Bluebird Project.

His dedication to Audubon was recognized when he was elected to the Audubon Council of New York two years ago.

Doug has travelled extensively. He has birded in 40 states in the U.S., plus traveled internationally. He has a life list of 614 species in the U.S. and a total world-wide life list of 1,236 birds.

It isn't all birds all the time for Doug. He is also interested in theatre and is on the Board of the Harrison Players, doing everything including lights, sets and acting. And, he enjoys golf and bowling. He works at the Wild Bird Center in Scarsdale — a dream job for someone with a life interest in birds.

Kudos to Doug!

Election of Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS membership will be asked to vote for



As a child, Doug Bloom went on Audubon field trips and now he's giving back with tireless and enthusiastic service.

approval of the following slate of directors for the class of 2012: Clare Gorman, Neil Powell, Bob Wirsneck, Roz Wood, and Jeff Zuckerman.

We hope to see all BRSS members on Thursday, June 4th at Five Island Park in New Rochelle. A postcard with details to sign up will be in the mail.



Michael Jaramillo and Joshua Luistro install the Gilbertson nestbox at Burke Rehab Hospital. Bluebird literature says that house sparrows don't like this nestbox made of PVC pipe, but bluebirds do. Time will tell.

Students Test House Sparrow Resistant Nestboxes

Two White Plains High School students in its Authentic Science Research Program are working with BRSS's Eastern Bluebird Project coordinator, Sandy Morrissey, to test a style of nestbox that is reputed to be house sparrow resistant.

House sparrows are enemy #1 for the bluebird and other cavity-nesting birds. In the battle for the nestbox, they are more aggressive and usually win by killing the native birds after trapping them in the box.

Michael Jaramillo and Joshua

Luistro have replaced 26 traditional style nestboxes with Gilbertson nestboxes (named after its designer). Locations were chosen where house sparrows presented the biggest problem.

Michael and Joshua are hoping to prove that the Gilbertson nestbox should be the style of choice if one is trying to attract the eastern bluebird in a heavily populated area like lower Westchester, which has a high density of house sparrows.

They will report the results of their test in the fall newsletter.

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*

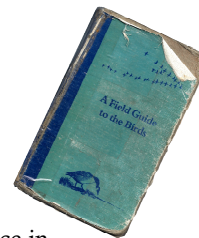
Upcoming Programs

Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Roger Tory Peterson's Birth

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Bronxville School

177 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY



President of Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, James Berry, will talk about Roger Tory Peterson's place in the history of field ornithology in the United States through an illustrated lecture and video from a New York perspective.

Bring for sharing your correspondence, photographs, and other personal memorabilia connected to Roger, as well as anecdotes and well-worn field guides that would do RTP proud.

Sponsored by BRSS, HRAS, CWAS and the Greenburgh Nature Center.

Return of Terns to Great Gull Island

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

Bronxville Public Library, Bronxville



Helen Hays, from the American Museum of Natural History, will be speaking on the history of Great Gull Island, which now has the largest nesting concentrations of common terns and roseate terns in North America.

Great Gull Island lies at the eastern end of L.I. Sound off of the coast of Connecticut. After occupying the island for centuries, the terns left when a fort was built in 1897. The AMNH purchased the island in 1947 and then began a project to get the terns to return. Helen Hays has been in charge of this project for the last 40 years, and she will relate how they achieved its success.

All BRSS programs are free and open to the public. Refreshments served at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks for Supporting our Bird Seed Sale

By Doug Bloom, Seed Sale Chair

We want to thank all 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 \$2,223.06. The total profit for the two seed sales this year is \$5,047.81.

We would also like to acknowledge the following people who gave donations for the seed sale this year:

Harriett Miller, Mike Raffia, Sheema Bhattacharya, Jane Guttmann, Valerie Marini, Vern Schramm, Neil Powell, Sandra

Morrissey, Louise Abel, Galina Mariani, Elaine Faver, Claire Gorman, Doug Bloom, Lois Kroll, Barbara Bennett, Peggyann Munnick, Elaine Winograd, Michael Bryson, Chris Broda, Diane Morrison, Tina Hoerenz, Jean

Case, Cece Fabbro, Barbara Romeo, Gloria Havender, Warren

Douglas, Otylia Wineburgh, Lu Gmoser, Judith Pinals, Nadine Zimet, Jean De Vos, Barbara Schwartz, David Seal,

Gisela Vaughan, Lika Levi, Bob Wirsneck, David Kaufman, and Phyllis Wittner.

Some of the proceeds from seed sales go toward sending children to the nature camps in county parks. If anyone knows of a child who might want to do this, please contact a Board Member.

Again, thanks for your support.



Welcome New Members

We hope you will join in our field trips and programs

Bronxville

Susan Archambault
Lindsay Baker
Catherine Byers
S.D. Genova
Mary Ann Kelly
Patrick Malone
Michael Morelli
Gary Purwin
Lami Ramasubramanian
Sofia Theard

Eastchester

Angela Buschini
Isabel & Sheldon Sklar
Warren Walsh
Albert White

Larchmont

Elizabeth Derby
Patricia Melrose
Linda Nelson
Emily Saltzman
Simon Sanders
Matthew Scheuer

Mamaroneck

Joan Baer
Pyr Day
Tom Graves
Jill Martin

Mount Vernon

Genevieve Bongiorno
Thomas Hodgson
Chris Osborn
Annette Weursching

New Rochelle

Elisabeth Chiera
Jeremy Fand
Mary & Pete Hillman

Cindy Hocking-Prugh
Amy & Bruce Jackson
Nancy Johnson
Thomas Lawlor
Jeremy Lelken
Harriet Miller
Jackie Morris
Diane Nydick
Marie Serpe
Kim Snyder

Pelham

Dom Dembowski
Katherine & James
Kenworthy
Barbara Simoni
Kathy Wright
Michael Zisser

Scarsdale

Jack Braun
David & Lauri Carey
Ellen Frantz
Eric Goldschmidt
Phyllis Klass,
James & Janet
Kloppenber
Diona Koerner
Steven Lempel
Pamela Miner
Anita Newman
Katherine Olsen
Rita Pan
Brian Rauch
Perry Samowitz
Eugene Sekulow
Joan Silverman

Tuckahoe

M. Schultze

Upcoming Spring Field Trips

Please call Doug Bloom at 914-834-5203 (evenings) or 914-713-0630 (10:00—6:00 Tues. thru Sat.) to sign up and inquire about carpooling. All birders welcome, from beginner to expert.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, April 5

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Wild Bird Center on Central Ave. or at 8:50 a.m. at Jamaica Bay. We'll be looking for late waterfowl and early migrants. With CWAS & Wild Bird Center.

Delmarva Peninsula Weekend

April 17—19

Call Doug Bloom ASAP for details and hotel information. Great birding, including migrating warblers, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors.

Central Park

Sunday, May 3

Meet 7:30 a.m. at 79th St. across from Museum of Natural History. Our stroll through the *Ramble* could turn up over 50 species of local and migrating songsters. One of the top-10 birding hot spots in US.

Doodletown Road

Sunday, May 24

Meet at Scarsdale Village Hall at



Photo by Dave Sparks

The warblers are coming! Join a BRSS field trip and we can help you ID these beautiful songsters, including this yellow warbler.

7:00 a.m. or at Doodletown Rd. at 8:00 a.m. Our target species is the cerulean warbler, its only nesting location in lower NY state. Chance for over 50 species as we canvass the winding, wooded trails. With HRAS and CWAS.

Shawangunk Grasslands

Sunday, May 31

Meet 6:00 a.m. at Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers. Looking for grassland birds such as bobolink, Meadowlark and upland sandpiper. With HRAS.

Field Trip Reports

Pelham Bay Park—Owl Prowl, Feb. 1

By Orlando Hidalgo

In all there were 24 anxious birders. Not letting the weather deter us, we set off to see some birds, especially OWLS!

We had 36 species of birds, among them pine siskins, eastern towhee, northern saw-whet owl, long-eared owl, great horned owl, and a barn owl. Great day!

Croton Point/George's Island, Feb. 7

By Neil Powell

Twenty-one birders gathered to look for bald eagles and whatever else might fly by. We saw an incredible 30-35 bald eagles, which was a big uptick from when we went two years ago.

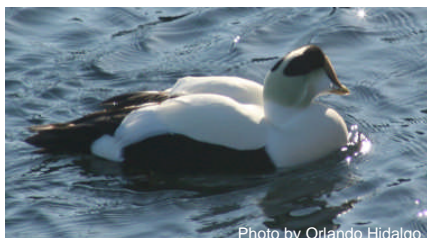


Photo by Orlando Hidalgo

Common eiders were just one of the many sea birds spotted on the Cape Ann field trip.

With a total of 34 other species being identified, it was a pretty productive day. The high points, besides the high number of eagles, include a yellow-bellied sapsucker, several ring-necked ducks, a merlin and a rough-legged hawk.

Cape Ann, North Shore, MA, Feb 20-22

By Neil Powell

The birding trip to Cape Anne was a great success. Eleven avid birders, led by veteran leaders Doug Bloom and Andrew Block, spotted 66 species of birds while wandering around the beaches and craggy rocky coastline of the North Shore of Boston.

This trip was mainly focused on identifying birds of the sea, bay and harbor, and it didn't disappoint.

Common eiders, all three scoters, Harlequin ducks, common and red-throated loons, a razorbill, a black guillemot and three species of grebes were seen. Glaucous and Iceland gulls were also sighted, as well as dunlins and sanderlings.

A surprise was how many interesting land birds were seen, including white-winged

crossbills, snow buntings, Lapland longspurs and horned larks, along with several bald eagles and six other birds of prey.

Edith Read Sanctuary, Mar. 22

By Neil Powell

While the 27 birders who gathered at Edith Read Sanctuary this last Sunday were greeted with blue skies and a nip in the air, not one scaup could be found on Playland Lake. This was unusual as historically the lake has played host to great flotillas of both greater and lesser scaup.

The day turned out successfully, however. Forty-eight species were spotted including large quantities of horned grebes and long-tailed ducks that were spotted from the beach at both Edith Read and Oakland Beach. Ruddy turnstones, oyster-

catchers and purple sandpipers were found on the rocks off Oakland Beach along with a couple of greater scaup. One American kestrel was spotted. Several birders continued on to Marshlands Conservancy and were treated to nice viewings of a great egret and osprey.



Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.

(formerly Scarsdale Audubon Society)
P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

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Save the Date
BRSS Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 4



Join!

Support our environmental mission and receive our newsletter with information about all our programs and field trips. Annual dues are \$20 and includes membership in the National Audubon Society, plus its magazine. Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make \$20 check to National Audubon Society and mail to:
BRSS Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

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GOING GREEN

Receive the Newsletter & Event Notices Via E-mail

We are trying to switch our members to receiving an e-mail version of our newsletter so that less trees and energy are used in our efforts to communicate.

Thanks to all of you who have sent in their e-mail addresses so far for this effort. Please check that you have received an e-mail version of our newsletter and kindly report any omissions or errors in our efforts to get this project off the ground and running.

Further, we want to have a new e-

mail recipient list for those of you who would like to be reminded of upcoming chapter trips and programs. Some of you have suggested this would be a good idea.

To sign up to get the newsletter via e-mail or to request to be on our event e-mail list, please contact our Board Member, Lika L. Levi. Her e-mail is likallevi@aol.com.

Thank you for your kindness to our environment. We will not use your e-mail for any other purpose.

Too Many Water Bottles—It's a Waste

- Nearly 2.5 billion bottles of water a year are sold in New York.
- Stacked up end to end, they'd reach the moon.
- Manufacturing that much plastic releases more than 800,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere
- In New York, the oil used to make our bottles is equal to 66 million gallons of gasoline.
- Nationally, only 10% of plastic water bottles are recycled—90% end up as either garbage or litter.
- Bottled water costs as much as \$10 per gallon—tap water costs less than one cent per gallon.
- In New York, we spend \$2 billion per year to provide safe, clean drinking water to the public.
- Drink tap water!

