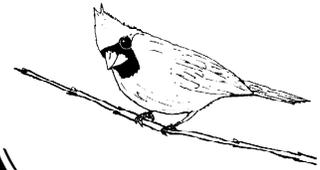


The

BIRD CALL

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



Spring 2008

Join Us for BRSS Annual Meeting on June 5th

Honorees: Clare Gorman & Jeff Zuckerman

The beautiful setting of Five Island Park will be the location of our Annual Meeting, thanks again to the very generous hospitality of the New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation. The business meeting begins at 6:00 P.M., with an optional guided bird walk at 5:30.

As is customary, the meeting will be kept short and the social time long. 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.

Honorees Outstanding Citizens

We will be honoring Clare Gorman and Jeff Zuckerman, long-time board members and community activists. Clare has served as Membership Chair for the past 15 years. Jeff has held several offices and served as Treasurer for the past 10 years. In addition to being vital, constant contributors to BRSS, Clare and Jeff give tirelessly to many community organizations.

For the past 18 years, they have

organized a food drive in which 38 school districts participate. The food is sent to the Food Bank for Westchester (formerly called Food Patch). Over this time, their food drive has collected over 500,000 pounds of food, helping hundreds of needy families by this service.

Both hold board positions at ECAP, the Eastchester Community Action Program. Clare is a Tuckahoe Village Trustee and just started a new Environmental Committee and a Tree Preservation Committee. Jeff is active in local politics and has served on the Village Planning Board.

Their choice of profession, school teacher, demonstrates further their willingness to give generously of their time and talents for the greater good of our society.

Election of Officers and Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS membership will be asked to vote approval of the following slate of officers. The nominees who have graciously offered to serve two-year



Jeff Zuckerman and Clare Gorman are exemplary in their contributions to public service.

terms are: Doug Bloom, president; Sandra Morrissey, vice president; Jeff Zuckerman, treasurer, and Cece Fabbro, secretary.

In addition, the membership will be asked for an affirmative vote for the slate of directors for the class of 2011: Doug Bloom, Jeanne LaPorta, Lika Levi, Diane Morrison, Sandra Morrissey, and Margaret Phelan.

Hope to see all BRSS members on June 5th at Five Island Park in New Rochelle. A postcard with details to sign up will be in the mail.

Grant from NYSDEC Helps NY's State Bird

Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Society received a \$2,700 Member Item Grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for its Eastern Bluebird Project with the help of George Latimer, New York Assemblyman of the 91st District.

The grant will enable the Audubon chapter to provide 75 additional



nestboxes to its existing "bluebird trail" of 180 nestboxes. In addition, the grant will fund a digital projector that will be used in presentations to educate the public about Eastern Bluebird conservation and preservation.

"It is our job to protect our natural environment so that the next generation will enjoy the world that we

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Upcoming Programs

Patagonia: The Attempt to Save Its Wildlife

Wednesday, April 2, 7:30 P.M.
Bronxville Public Library

21st Century Damsels and Dragons

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 P.M.
Church Street School, White Plains

See page 2 for details

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

All programs are free and open to the public

Patagonia: The attempt to save its wildlife

Wednesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Bronxville Public Library

201 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville, NY

Bill Conway, former president and general director of the Wildlife Conservation Society, will provide a view of the people and wildlife of Patagonia with pictures from his latest trip.

Patagonia is a scantily peopled region of broad steppes, high mountains and rough shores bigger than Texas and Arizona combined. It is bordered by some of the roughest seas in the world and falls within Argentina and Chile. The name is synonymous with natural wonders and unusual creatures.

Bill Conway has studied and photographed Patagonian wildlife for decades. Working with South American colleagues for the Wildlife Conservation Society, he has helped to secure protection for its giant seals, the world's largest colony of parrots, Magellanic penguins, sea lions, South American camels, Darwin's rheas, monogamous mice as big as Scotties, condors, flamingos, cormorants and spectacular landscapes.

**21st Century Damsels and Dragons**

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.

Church Street School

295 Church St., White Plains

Larry Federman, will introduce you to the wonderful world of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) with his illustrated PowerPoint presentation. It will include basic odonate biology, an overview of odonate families, an introduction to the NYS Damselfly and Dragonfly Survey, and how you can become involved in this extremely rewarding project.

Larry, the Assistant Warden/Educator for three upstate New York Audubon sanctuaries, is a "dyed in the wool birder" who has embraced the study of odonates. After birds have settled down for the day, the odonates take to the air. Learn more about these intriguing winged beauties.

This program is co-sponsored by Central Westchester Audubon Society.

**Thanks for Supporting our Bird Seed Sale**

I want to thank all the customers who bought bird seed 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 \$2223.06. Some of the proceeds from seed sales go toward sending kids to the nature camps in the county parks. If anyone knows of kids who might want to do this, please contact a Board Member. The total profit for the two seed sales this year is \$5047.81. Again, thank you.

Birdseed Chairman
Doug Bloom



Welcome New Members

We hope you will join in our field trips and programs.

Bronxville

Ruth Doyle
Jill Fowler
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Hayes
Lorraine Marshall
Pedro Martinez
Evelyn Schmidt
Ann Schumacher
Donna Trot

Eastchester

Mark Gesoff
Marcia Kawer

Hartsdale

Eda Burne
Cathy Chiarmonte
Jean Darwick
Harriet Goldstein
Margaret Graveley
Melvin Green
Katheryn Hathaway
Lucille Knight
Arthur Kotopoulos
Anthony Natiello
Isidore Shiffman

Larchmont

Janet Beal
Rita Ciocci
Fred Engel
Virginia Fineberg
Harold Goldman
Anne Mieke,
James Schena
Melissa Schoen
David Silverstone

Mamaroneck

Eleanor Melley
Tamra Russell
Loren Singer
Sidney Stayman
Edward Walker

Mt. Vernon

Mary Harrington
Theresa Main
R. Ruthman
Michele Zanky

New Rochelle

The Blum Family
Mira Branson
Theodore Davis
Robert Frost
Diane Heim
Judy Heimann
Eva Hernandez
Charles Lake
Gloria Marano
Martine Ramadan
Melba Shapiro
Rebecca Wortman

Pelham

Gail Belmuth
Haley Childs
Marion Cooke
Robert & Sandra Goldman
Rachel Radvany
Elizabeth Raine

Rye

Terry Cooper

Scarsdale

Elana Bruckmann

NYSDEC Grant

Continued from page 1

inherited. This is one more step in the right direction," remarked Assemblyman Latimer when presenting the grant.

The funds will purchase identification tags, wood, poles and hardware to make and install the nestboxes. School and scout groups will build the nestboxes while learning about New York's State Bird, the eastern bluebird. Audubon members, plus others interested will help monitor the nestboxes. Most nestboxes will be placed in lower and central Westchester in good bluebird habitat such as golf courses, cemeteries and open parkland.



Assemblyman George Latimer (center) presents the NYSDEC grant check to BRSS Audubon members (l to r) Gisela Vaughan, Orlando Hidalgo, Sandy Morrissey and Joan Heilman in the Beechwoods Cemetery, where some of the bluebird nestboxes will be placed.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this project or scheduling an Eastern Bluebird presentation should contact Sandy Morrissey, sandym@cloud9.net or 914-949-2531.

BRSS Participates in EagleFest

It was a very cold and snowy Saturday, February 9th, but the weather did not deter over 2,400 people attending the Hudson River EagleFest at Croton Point Park presented by the Teatown Lake Reservation. BRSS was one of the many organizations that helped celebrate the bald eagle's winter return to the Hudson Hills and Highlands.

The BRSS table was represented by Diane Morrison, Cece Fabbro and Bob Wirsneck. Many of the visitors praised the BRSS Bluebird program and were impressed by Sandra Morrissey's enthusiasm in returning the bluebirds

to Westchester. All the tables of the collaborating organizations, the vendors and food services were all under a huge and well-heated tent.

Doug Bloom led a bird walk and reported highlights of 10 eagles, 4 long-eared owls, a rough-legged hawk and a common raven, with a total of 28 species seen.

Admission for the Encounters with Birds of Prey, Eagle ID, and the Flight of Raptors were sold out weeks

prior to the event. No tickets were available at the door. (Be forewarned for EagleFest 2009). A total of 35 eagles were counted for the day.



Diane Morrison at BRSS display.



Going Green

Recycle Plastic Bags

Even though we make an effort to use eco-friendly, re-useable bags or simply say, "I don't need a bag, thank you," hundreds slip into the house anyway. The daily paper arrives in a plastic bag, as does the dry cleaning.

Although we can't recycle plastic bags at curbside, there are many grocery stores that have bins placed in front of their stores to accept them, and these WILL get recycled.

So, stick your Monday newspaper's plastic bag under the sink, then stuff it with every plastic bag that furtively slips into your daily life. You will be surprised how quickly the bag splits its seam. Then just REMEMBER to take them with you on your next grocery shopping trip.

Tico Tours 10-day Costa Rica Birding & Nature Tour

August 16—25, 2008

Price: \$1900 (w/o airfare, based on 6 participants—single is \$300/person extra)

Costa Rica is a land filled with wondrous birds, wildlife and plants. Over 870 species of birds can be seen in the country with 300+ easily seen on a week long trip. This tour will explore some of the more visited areas which are prime birding spots.

Tour leader is wildlife biologist Andrew Block. He has participated on or led many birding and nature trips to Trinidad & Tobago, Kenya, Tanzania, Japan, most of the United States and some of Europe. He's been birding for more than 30 years and has a vast knowledge of nature from around the world and can answer questions on most animal and plant subjects. If there are any questions he can be contacted at 914-886-5124.

Bronx River—Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.

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

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Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 5
BRSS receives NYSDEC Grant



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.

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

Field Trips Spring 2008

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.

Read Sanctuary/Marshlands/ Larchmont Reservoir

Sunday, April 13, 8:00 A.M.

Meet at Read behind Playland in Rye at 8:00 A.M. We will be looking for early migrants and late winter visitors, especially waterfowl in these wet habitats. Early ospreys and black-crowned night herons are possibilities. With CWAS/HRAS.

Central Park—A Top Ten Hot Spot for Birds in US

Sunday, May 4, 7:30 A.M.

Meet at 77th and Central Park West at 7:30 A.M. across from Museum of Natural History. (Arrange carpooling through Doug Bloom). Our stroll through the *Ramble* could turn up over 50 species of local and migrating songsters. With HRAS.

Doodletown Road Warbler Quest

Sunday, May 18, 7:15 A.M.

Meet at Village Hall in Scarsdale at 7:15 A.M. or at Doodletown Road 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 CWAS.

Constitution Marsh Guided Canoe Trip

Sunday, June 1, 7:30 A.M.

Meet at Scarsdale village hall at 7:30 A.M. Enjoy a relaxing paddle among the marshes, with a guide who will explain the eco-system of the marsh. *Reservations required.* Deadline is May 20. Limited to 17 people. Fee is \$20.