



The Newsletter of the Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society
Serving the communities of Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Larchmont,
Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale and Tuckahoe

Join Us BRSS Annual Member Meeting, June 7th, Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., Five Islands Park, New Rochelle

BRSS Honoree: Andrew Spano, Westchester County Executive

Thanks again to the very generous hospitality of the New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation, our Annual Meeting will again be held at the indoor pavilion at Five Islands Park, located on Long Island Sound in New Rochelle. All BRSS members and friends are encouraged to attend.

The Five Island park setting is beautiful and there will be a bird walk beginning 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. Refreshments will be served.

BRSS Environmental Leadership Honoree



This year's Bronx River Sound Shore honoree for environmental action is Westchester County Executive, Andrew Spano.

During his more than nine years as Westchester County executive, Andy Spano has initiated dozens of environmental programs from preserving open space to protecting water quality. Spano has created a number of initiatives to help make Westchester a national model for protecting drinking water. Upon taking office, Spano launched a \$25 million open space program that has already led to the preservation of more than 2,300 acres in Westchester through various public and private partnerships with other governments, businesses and non-profit groups. Spano has appointed a Global Warming task force of community, business and environmental leaders to propose an action plan for ways Westchester can reduce greenhouse gases.

The BRSS Audubon chapter is certainly not among the first to honor Andy's environmental leadership, nor undoubtedly will we be the last, but we feel it is important to lend our voice of approval and support to a local public official who makes special efforts to dedicate their public service to improving the environment.



Five Islands Park, New Rochelle

Call for Nominations to the BRSS Board and Annual Meeting Election

At the Annual Meeting, June 7, at Five Islands Park, New Rochelle, the BRSS membership will be asked to vote on a slate of candidates for the Bronx River Sound Shore board of directors, for the term ending 2010.

The BRSS Nominating Committee, Sheema Bhattacharya, Stephen Sherman and Robert Wick have nominated BRSS members Henry May, Fred Gervat, Cece Fabbro, Gisela Vaughan and Orlando Hidalgo to a three-year term beginning July 1, 2007.

BRSS members who wish to serve on the BRSS board or propose the nomination of other BRSS members are encouraged to contact the nominating committee chairman, Robert Wick at 723-1809.

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* Denotes Director

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Sally Holec
Robert Wirsneck
Margaret Phelan
Gisela Vaughan

WEB: <http://brssaudubon.org>

10 Field Trips Scheduled for April, May and June

We hope you will take advantage of at least one of the field trips that have been scheduled for you this spring. Remember, no birding experience is necessary. It's a great way to get in the great out-of-doors on leisurely walks in areas that may be new to you, with the bonus benefit of having expert birders help you to spot and identify the many species that may be unfamiliar. Contact Doug Bloom for more information: days 713-0630, evenings 834-5203

Sunday, April 22, Visit three nearby prime birding hotspots with varying habitat, the Edith G. Read Park, Marshlands Conservancy and Larchmont Reservoir, in search of migrants. Meet 8:00 am at Rye Playland parking lot. Call Doug Bloom.

Saturday, April 28 Piermont on the Hudson River for migrant waterfowl, then on to Hook Mountain for early hawk migration. Together with Hudson River Audubon Chapter. Meet 7 a.m. at the Pier. Co-sponsored with Hudson River Audubon. Call Mike Bochnik, 237-9331, for more details.

Sunday, May 6 Central Park Spectacular. Meet 8 am C.P.W. across from the Met. Museum for what may be the best bird walk of the year. Warblers and so much more. Call Doug Bloom.

Friday, May 11 Crestwood Lake 6:30 pm. Meet at the Crestwood RR station for waterfowl and more. With Hudson R. Audubon. Co-sponsored with Hudson River Audubon. Call Mike Bochnik 237-9331 for more details.

Saturday, May 12 Sprain Lake Park 7 am. Co-sponsored with Hudson River Audubon. Call Mike Bochnik 237-9331 for more details.

Sunday, May 13 Lenoir Mother's Day warbler walk 8 am. Co-sponsored with Hudson River Audubon. Call Mike Bochnik 237-9331 for more details.

Sunday, May 20 Doodletown was an isolated village that was abandoned during the 1960s. It is now part of Bear Mt. State Park. Great birding, Cerulean warbler habitat. Meet 7 am Scarsdale Village hall. Call Doug Bloom.

Saturday, June 2 Sterling Forest State Park comprises 17,953 acres of nearly pristine natural refuge in Tuxedo, NY. This unbroken deep-forest habitat is important for the survival of many resident and migratory species, including black bear, a variety of hawks and songbirds and many rare invertebrates and plants. Meet 8 am at Sterling Forest Center. Co-sponsored with Hudson River Audubon. Call Mike Bochnik 237-9331 for more details.

Friday to Sunday, June 1 to 3 Delmarva three-day weekend. **Reservations required by May 15th.** View varied habitats, with many migrants and shorebirds. Call Doug Bloom.

Saturday, June 30 Butterfly/Bird Walk at Ward Pound Ridge reservation. Meet at the Nature Center 8 am. Co-sponsored with Hudson River Audubon and Central Westchester Audubon. Call Mike Bochnik 237-9331 for details.

Welcome New BRSS Members

Bronxville: Brenda Laws, Barbara Vaccaro. **Eastchester:** Cynthia Curran **Hartsdale:** Carol Shapiro. **Larchmont:** Linda Caigan, Kevin Dougherty, Stephen Gilbert, Marvin Schwartz. **Mamaroneck:** Jeanne Blumberg, Robert Leftwich, Michael Santee. **Mount Vernon:** Claudette Bogle. **New Rochelle:** Augustina Corbo, T. Custer, Cynthia Gay, Geraldine Hogan-Kaplan, Jason Mandella, Cynthia Reynolds, Amy Scarangella. **Pelham:** Brian Deire, Tom Middleton. **Scarsdale:** Douglas Berman, Sarah Glickenhau, Francis Sabadie, Lynn Clare Simon, Adam Walinsky.

An Evening Program: Alaskan Treasures, Tuesday, May 1

From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska

Come learn about the natural treasures of Alaska. On Tuesday evening, May 1st, Taldi Walter will present a slide show at the Bronxville Library. Ms. Walter, who is the Alaska Field Coordinator for the National Audubon Society's Washington DC Policy Office, will illustrate some of the spectacular natural areas and beautiful birds found in the wild areas of Alaska. In the process, she will outline the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing these areas which were set aside years ago for the benefit of the wild life and the American Public. Areas included will be the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forrest, Chugach National Forest, and the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska.



Alaska is the largest of our states, encompassing more than 600,000 sq. miles of rugged mountains, grinding glaciers, endless tundra, diverse temperate rainforest, and winding coast lines. From the Spectacled Eider and Yellow-billed Loon found in America's Arctic to the Black Oystercatcher and the Marbled Godwit found on the southern coastline, Alaska's birdlife diversity is astounding. Alaska also has an abundance of other iconic wildlife species including grizzlies, caribou, Bald Eagles, humpback whales and wolves, many of which are endangered elsewhere. The current administration and some members of congress have advocated vastly accelerating the extraction of oil, gas, and mineral deposits in this important ecological area. Audubon seeks a balance between resource extraction and protecting internationally critical habitat.

Taldi Walter joined the National Audubon Society's Washington DC Policy Office as the Alaska Field Coordinator, after the recent completion of her Masters degree in Biology. Taldi will present an informative slideshow showcasing some of the important natural areas and brilliant birds found in wild Alaska. The presentation will explore some of Alaska's natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska.

This free program will start at 7:30 and will be preceded by social period beginning at 7:00. All are welcome. For further information call Michael Bryson at (914) 337-0333

BRSS Fund Raising: Winter Bird Seed Sale and Donations

Thanks to all who ordered bird seed from our winter seed sales. The February sale raised a total of \$2,065.80, \$823 in donations and \$1242.80 in profit from the sale of seed. This winter's two sales raised a total of \$4, 608.60.

Century Club donors (those who gave \$100 or more) this February were Barbara Bennett, Sheema Bhattacharya, and Neil Powell. Those giving \$50 to \$99 were Doug Bloom and Lois Kroll. Donors of \$25 to \$49 were Jean Case, Claire Gorman and Valerie Marini.

Thanks also to Doug Bloom, bird seed sale coordinator and Hank Weber, proprietor of the Wild Bird Center, 400 Central Park Avenue, Scarsdale (across from Office Depot) for organizing and making our birdseed sale fund raisers possible.



This Snowy Owl took-up residence in Piermont, N.Y. on the Hudson River (the southern limit of its winter range) from January to mid-March. A breeder in the Arctic tundra, it is virtually all white and one of our largest and heaviest owls. It could be seen dining on Bufflehead duck and other waterfowl, flying with great agility and preening on its perch at the end of the pier. If you did not get a chance to see this beautiful flyer in Piermont, check out the Bronx Zoo's pair of Snowies.

Photo Courtesy Cece Fabbro

Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon Society

(formerly Scarsdale Audubon Society)
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Eastern Bluebirds will soon be coming to a BRSS bluebird house near you. For time and locations call Sandy Morrissey 949-2593

Winter Field Trip Reports

Montauk, January 14

Three participants saw 28 species of birds. It was a cool, cloudy and later foggy day. Wintering sea birds and al-cids were the focus. Among the many species, we saw Loons, Grebes, Gannets, and Purple Sandpipers from the beautiful bluffs and beaches surrounding Montauk lighthouse overlooking Block Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. We also visited area bays, fresh water ponds and woodlands to see Snow geese, Cedar Waxwings and a Hermit Thrush.

Teatown Eaglefest, February 11

Six Participants had 54 species of birds. It was a warm cloudy day, but it was nice. There were a lot of ducks and American Coots. Some of the other species seen were Bufflehead, Wigeon, Horned Grebes, Green-winged Teal, Pintails, Shovelers, Gadwall. We also had Northern Harriers and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Field trip to Jones Beach and Long Island, February 25

Three people went to Jones Beach and LI. 57 species of birds were sighted, including Smith's Longspur, a Western Tanager, King and Common Eiders and a few sandpipers.

Field trip to Sandy Hook, N.J. March 18

On a beautiful but cold day, six participants saw 45 species of birds. Some of the species included Snow Goose, Brant, Kestrel, Cedar Waxwings, Fox Sparrows and also a Gannet. This trip was a co-trip with Hudson River Audubon Society. Habitat was marsh, woodland and beach.