



The BIRD CALL

Winter, 2007

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



BRSS member, Sandy Morrissey, (left with a Scout and a bluebird box) will describe her ten year quest to bring New York's State Bird, The Eastern Bluebird, back to Westchester. The slide program, will be at the Bronxville Library, on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 7.30 p.m., It will include a discussion of why the Bluebird's population declined by 90%, and how enthusiasts are reversing this decline by building nestboxes and placing them in good bluebird habitat. Sandy, with help from BRSS Audubon, Boy and Girl Scouts, senior citizens and schoolchildren, has placed over 180 boxes in central and lower Westchester. The area has gone from having NO nesting bluebirds, to a record high of 19 nesting pairs in 2006 ! Come and learn where you might spot an Eastern Bluebird, and how you can bring "the bluebird of happiness" into your life by helping in this important conservation project.

Sandy Morrissey is presently Vice President of the Board of BRSS and Coordinator of its Eastern Bluebird Project. She is an avid birder, and has a lifelong interest in nature and environmental education and conservation.

Constitution Marsh Field Trip, September 9, 2007



On a beautiful sunny day, fifteen participants went on a canoe trip through Constitution Marsh. We were out for almost three hours, and saw forty-four species of birds, including osprey, several warblers, belted kingfishers, cedar waxwings, Great blue herons, and wood ducks. This is our most popular trip, and is always sold out early. Everyone always has a great time!

BRSS AUDUBON OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Doug Bloom 834-5203 (home)
Larchmont 713-0630 (work)

VICE PRESIDENT

Sandra Morrissey 949-2531
Hartsdale sandym@cloud9.net

TREASURER

Jeff Zuckerman 395-3083
Tuckahoe
jeffzuckerman2000@aol.com

SECRETARY

Cece Fabbro 472-6596
cecefab@aol.com

Committee Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

Clare Gorman 395-3083
Tuckahoe claregorman@yahoo.com

FIELD TRIPS

Doug Bloom 834-5203

CONSERVATION

Sandra Morrissey 949-2531

NEWSLETTER

Fred Gervat 738-4532
Pelham fgervat@gmail.com

PROGRAMS

TBD

PUBLICITY

Roz Wood
698-3568
rozandalan@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Diane Morrison 725-7351
Scarsdale

Committee Members

Stephen Sherman	Webmaster
Andrew Block	Field Trips
Neil Powell*	Field Trips
Karen Shultz	Conservation
Henry May *	Publicity

* Denotes Director

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Robert Wirsneck
Margaret Phelan
Gisela Vaughan
Orlando Hidalgo

WEB: <http://brssaudubon.org>

Field Trips For 2008

January 13, 2008 Montauk. Meet at 6:30 AM at the Scarsdale Village Hall. We will be looking for wintering sea ducks and alcids and other birds seen mostly in the winter. This is an all day trip.

February 9, 2008 Eagle Walk 8:00 AM at WBC on Central Ave., Scarsdale.. This is also Teatown Eagle Fest Day.

March Audubon Council Meeting in Saratoga Springs

April 13, 2008 Larchmont Reservoir/ Marshlands / Read Sanctuary CWAS We will be looking for early migrants and also late wintering birds.. 8 a.m.

May 4, 2008 Central Park

On April 2, Dr. 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. Bronxville Library, 7.30 p.m.

Please Call for all trips because some have limited space. Call Doug Bloom at (914/834-5203)

Some trips are co-sponsored with other groups; the abbreviations are

WBC Wild Bird Center on Central Ave in Scarsdale

CWAS Central Westchester Audubon Society

HRAS Hudson River Audubon Society

New Members

Bronxville: Paul Deppe, Timothy McCann, Susan Orzel, Burton Pollin, Jose Santiago, John Torell. **Hartsdale:** Ingrid Dabney, Harriet Goldstein, John Mayher, Kathy Olson, Andrew Paul. **Larchmont:** Janet Beal, Mary Berridge, Roy Laishley, Robert Rothman, Margaret & Tom Stanback, Norman Trieger. **Mamaroneck:** John Brown, David Kaufman, Norma Riffel, Kathleen Savolt, Lawrence Shapiro, Marjorie Zeidman. **Mount Vernon:** Estella Abel, A. Perry. **New Rochelle:** Marge Banks, Rosemary Bertran, Mira Branson, Anthony Debakto, Daniel Diffrancesco, Mina, Gerowin, Frank Guida, Ruth King, Kenneth Lane, Bernice Levine, James Malone, Gloria Marano, Megan Plein, Carlos Rios, Otis Searcy. **Pelham:** Frank Nicotra. **Scarsdale:** Diane Boekman, Barbara Carlton, Tara Czechowski, Albarosa Gandolfi, Curtiss Jackson, Stanley Janow, Walter Lockwood, Leland MacPhail, Robert Phillips, Barbara Samuels, Joan Sidler, Samuel Speyer. **Tuckahoe:** Cynthia Chiarello, Greg Gick, Cathy Michelser.

Jamaica Bay Bird Walk November 11, 2007

After gathering on a chilling Sunday morning in front of the Wild Bird Center, 26 hardy bird watchers, mostly from Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon and Central Westchester Audubon, piled in to their cars and headed off to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for a morning of bird watching. While, given the time of year, we expected to see mostly ducks, geese and a few water birds such as herons and egrets, we actually saw a nice variety of song birds and raptors, which made for a productive day.

In fact, at the end of about three and one-half hours a total of 56 birds were spotted. Of course, we did see a good variety of ducks. Including Northern Shovelers, Gadwalls, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and three types of Grebe (Horned, Pied-billed and Red-necked), along with Pintail, Green Wing Teal, all swimming alongside a large number of the usual suspects, swans and geese. A surprising Willet showed itself on the shore of the West Pond before the morning was over.

Land birds were plentiful in variety, including Yellow-Rumped Warbler, both Kinglets, a Swamp Sparrow along with multiple sightings of White-throats and Song Sparrows. A good-sized flock of Cedar Waxwings made the rounds as well.

To round out a great (if not a bit chilly) day with a stiff wind coming off the West Pond were two Northern Harriers, an American kestrel, a Cooper's and a Sharp-shinned Hawk which were seen flying with a Red-Tailed Hawk.

According to other observers which we spoke to at the Visitors' Center, we just missed seeing 300 Snow Geese on the East Pond. As they say, timing is everything!

Greenwich Audubon Field trip-October 14

On a nice fall day, eleven participants saw 34 species of birds including Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Mourning Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Wood Pewee.

There can be no greater way to enjoy the magnificent weather, than by being outside birding !

I want to thank all the customers who bought birdseed through our Fall seed sale. We are doing our next seed sale in February. Since this is our main fund raiser during the year, we appreciate your continued support. Our profit on the sale was \$2825.00. Some of the proceeds from the seed sales go towards 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. This is the best Fall sale since we started the sales. Again, thank you.

Birdseed Chairman,
Doug Bloom

**Bronx River Sound Shore
Audubon Society**

P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

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Osprey (Fish Hawk)

WORD SEARCH

Apologies for transmission problems in the last Word Search, which omitted some letters. The following should be an improvement.

Find the following birds in the puzzle below. Letters may go in any direction, but must be adjacent. Answers in the next issue of "Bird Call".

**BLUEBIRD EAGLE CARDINAL ORIOLE OWL VIREO JAY PLOVER
CROW ROBIN DOVE WREN**

B	C	A	R	O	W
O	L	A	C	D	E
V	P	U	N	I	L
E	R	L	E	I	O
J	N	W	O	B	R
A	Y	L	E	R	D
E	G	C	I	O	C
H	F	E	V	W	P