



# The BIRD CALL

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

## BRSS Annual Meeting June 2nd

By Sandy Morrissey

Five Islands 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 is Hank Weber



Many of us already know our honoree, Hank Weber. Until recently, he was the owner of the Wild Bird Store in Hartsdale, and many of us frequented the store for bird supplies and gifts. You could always count on a friendly

greeting and sage advice on everything from woodpeckers pecking on your home to the question he was most frequently asked, "How do I keep squirrels out the feeders?"

He acquired a following by holding birdwalks once a month at local hot spots. Hundreds of people have gone on these walks over the years. Even though he closed his store, he continues this tradition. Please email Hank at ([hnweber@aol.com](mailto:hnweber@aol.com)) to get on his email list to find out the dates and locations of upcoming

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## Doug Bloom Receives High Honor from NY Audubon Council

Congratulations to BRSS Board member Doug Bloom for being honored by the NY Audubon Council with the Norm Stotz Award at its spring council meeting in March.

The Norm Stotz Award is given for "Extraordinary Volunteer Service on Behalf of the Audubon Society and the Environmental Cause."

Well, we certainly know Doug deserves this. He has been active in Audubon since he was 10 years old – over 50 years. He has served on the BRSS Board for over 20 years. He was our president for 6 years and is currently serving as Vice President. He has been our Field Trip leader for over 2 decades, and almost solely runs our Seed Sale, generating most of our chapter's revenue. Since starting this position in 2000, he has raised over \$60,000! And, he is now serving his fifth term on the NY Audubon Council. Bravo, Doug!



**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*

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ing walks.

Hank is a marvelous writer and has written bird articles for many national ornithological publications, including *Bird Watchers' Digest*, *Birders World* and *Wild Bird Magazine*. He informs and entertains us with his depth of knowledge, but light-hearted approach. He mostly writes about backyard birds – the ones out our windows – not esoteric subjects and species requiring passports to ever hope to see. For several years now, he's blogged about his favorite subject. You can enjoy it at [www.birdsoup.net](http://www.birdsoup.net).

BRSS Audubon owes our financial stability to Hank. Ever since he allowed us to use his store as our Bird Seed pickup location, our seed sale flourished. It was a great convenience to many of us to be able to pick up only part of our order, as we needed it. Over the years, he volunteered his store as the bird seed pickup location for other Audubon chapters as well. We say that's very generous to donate space to competition selling your own product.

Although Hank remembers being impressed with a few birds during his childhood, specifically remembering a bright yellow "canary" (a goldfinch) and a rose-breasted grosbeak, he didn't really get into birds until his wife gave him a pair of binoculars for his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. He headed off to a park in Chicago where he lived at the time, and like many of us became hooked. After a career in marketing, he decided to try a business where he could be surrounded and talk about birds (little did he know the main subject would be squirrels).

We are grateful that he has passed on this love and knowledge of birds to so many who have crossed his path. We know that all bird lovers become avid environmentalists, because without a healthy environment, we have no birds. Hank has contributed much to this cause and we are proud to honor him for it!

### **Election of Officers and Board Members**

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS members will be asked to vote to approve the following officers for a two-year term: Sandra Morrissey, President; Doug Bloom, Vice President; Diane Morrison, Secretary; and Jeff Zuckerman, Treasurer.

The membership will also be asked to vote for the slate of Directors for the Class of 2019: Bernie Conway, Cece Fabbro, John Flores, Henry May and Bill O'Connell.

We hope to see all BRSS members and friends at Five Islands Park in New Rochelle on June 2.

## EagleFest 2016: Our Big Feathered Friend's Big Visit

By Catherine Beveridge

Another early February weekend. Weather was cold, but no snow, light winds. Must mean Eaglefest! The Annual Eaglefest was held over the weekend of February 6-7th and things were in full swing. Over 5,000 people attended this year. Birdwalks, shows, many vendors and gifts, and plenty of food, Eaglefest brought out the regulars, both watchers and birds. On the walks, we reported over 30 different species, but only a handful of eagles due to the warm winter. Our feathered friend made laps around the vendors as kids built him a big nest outside the main tent. Our table had the usual "Beak in the sand" activity with freshly cut gummy worms for the kids, and the "Wingspan Tape" for our older crowd and kids alike. Passersby were surprised to find that their wing span was that of a Great Blue Heron, while women wondered if there was a message in their being the same wingspan as a Turkey Vulture. Kids asked if we ever found a person with a California Condor reach, and occasionally a tall person reached the span of the honored Bald Eagle itself. Overall Eagle Fest did a great job of bringing new birders and experienced ones out to enjoy the sites.

### Thanks, Cornell's True Value



BRSS is deeply grateful to Cornell's True Value Hardware Store in Eastchester and its owner John Fix for allowing us to use the store as our new Bird Seed Sale pickup location. Its employees helped unload the seed from the supplier and stored the seed until our pickup weekend dates. Employees helped with a few orders during the week for people who couldn't come during the weekend. Our sale was a big success and we are happy to say Cornell's True Value have invited us back for next fall's Seed Sale. Thanks, also, to all the BRSS members who buy our seed and support our environmental programs.

### Bird Seed Sale Report

By Doug Bloom

Thank you to all of our customers who bought bird seed through our February seed sale. This is our main fundraiser during the year and we appreciate your continued support. Our profit on the second seed sale was \$3,566. Some of the proceeds from seed sales go toward sending kids to the nature camps in the county parks, the production of this newsletter and much more. The total profit for the two seed sales this year is \$8,934. This is the best we have ever done.

We would like to acknowledge the people who gave donations for the seed sale this year: Louise Abel, Elaine Abrams, Paul Basch, Mary Alice Becker, Sheema Bhattacharya, Doug Bloom, Chris Broda, Sheryl Breuninger, Ernestine Colombo, Rob Canora, Cathy Corbin, Julia De Carlo, Warren Douglas, Nancy Early, Elaine Faver, Steve Frantz, Kristin Friedman, Lu Gmoser, Christopher Gorman, Clare Gorman, Ruth Gyure, Frank Hariton, Elizabeth Harriss, Kathryn Heintz, Emita Hill, Phil Homer, Dave Kaufman, Alice La Sala, Bob Maffucci, Valerie Marini, Scott Mellis, Harriett Miller, Diane Morrison, Sandy Morrissey, Peggyann Munnick, Wendy Murphy, Suzi Oppenheimer, Donald Pinals, Neil Powell, Elizabeth Poyet, Mike Raffia, Karen Raggins, Barbara Roca, Charles Rubens, Anthony Santelia, Vern Schramm, Mark Sotsky, Laura Ann Strasser, Jean Stephenson, Victoria Sturner, Peter Thorp, Linnet Tse, Ellen Valle, Janice Von Mehren, Svetlana Wasserman, Joan Weissman, Bob Wirsneck, Sidney Witter, Phyllis Wittner



## PROGRAMS 2016

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 7:15 pm and the program begins at 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.

### Wednesday, April 20 - New York's Newest Immigrants: Coyotes in the Metropolitan Area Presenter - Chris Nagy, Ph.D.

How do coyotes live and adapt in the suburbs? Citizen scientists are recording observations that help find answers. Dr. Nagy is Director of Research and Land Management at Mianus River Gorge.



**Location: Rye Nature Center, 873 Boston Post Rd., Rye**



Dr. Herbert Raffaele has 35 years experience in international conservation, including service as Chief, Division of International Conservation for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Director of Wildlife Planning for Puerto Rico. Herb is the recipient of the Alexander F. Skutch Medal for Excellence in Neotropical Ornithology. He is the author of many books, including the definitive *Guide to Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*; and coauthor of *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies* and *Wildlife of the Caribbean*.

### Thursday, May 12 - Birds of the Caribbean: An Island by Island Tour Presenter - Herbert Raffaele, Ph.D.

Come on a virtual bird tour through the Caribbean to see and learn about some of its spectacular birds, many found only in that region. Two bird families -- the todies and palmchats -- occur only there. Learn about the origins of the avifauna, tidbits about ecology, folklore, and threats to species survival, the rediscovery of species long thought extinct, and the role of "James Bond" in the study of the region's avifauna.



**Location: Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale**

*These programs are co-sponsored by Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon and Central Westchester Audubon.*

## Our 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Getting Mt. Vernon Students Excited about Birds



*The wingspan of this 2<sup>nd</sup> grader is that of a Herring Gull.*



*A woodpecker's beak is like a chisel.*



*A bird in the hand is ..... a priceless learning tool.*

*We used new Smart Board technology combined with hands-on activities to teach about beaks.*





## FIELD TRIPS 2016



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

**April 17-Sunday - Cranberry Lake**  
Meet at 8:00 am at Cranberry Lake. We will be looking for early migrants; warblers and other songbirds that are passing through.



### May 15, Sunday - Doodletown Road

Meet at 8:00 am at Doodletown Road. Best place to see Cerulean Warblers nesting and other migrants. Doodletown is the site of a former hamlet just south of Bear Mountain. The site was settled by about 1762 and at its peak circa 1945 was home to about 300 residents. After WWII, Bear Mountain State Park gradually acquired many of the homes. By 1962, the remaining homes were condemned and the site was vacated by 1965. The foundations of many of the homes are still clearly visible.

**May 1, Sunday - Central Park** Meet at 7:30 am at 77<sup>th</sup> street at statue across from Museum of Natural History. Will be looking for spring migrants such as warblers, orioles and others.



### May 22 - Sunday, Sterling Forest

Meet at 7:00 am at the village hall. We will be looking for early migrants; warblers and other songbirds that are passing through.



## Youth (and Adult Beginner) Field Trips 2016

All field trips are on Saturdays and begin at 9:00 a.m. PLEASE email Dave Kaufman [dkaufman43@gmail.com](mailto:dkaufman43@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**April 16, Crestwood Lake** – water, parkland birds and early migrants (meet in Crestwood Train Station parking lot on the parkway side of the train station - take Exit 8 off of the BronxRiver Parkway).

**May 14, Rye Nature Center** – woodland birds and spring warblers.

**June 4, Kensico Cemetery** – band nesting bluebirds (meet at cemetery office, 273 Lakeview Ave., Valhalla).



## Welcome New Members

**Bronxville:** EllenDavis, Julia Decarlo, Ellen Duttweiler, Estelle Feehan, Stewart Fishbein, Roberta Itzkioff, Scott Lang, George Michas, Laurel Pregon, Jane Roe. **Eastchester:** HB Bulger, Ronald, Lockhart, Yoshihiro Sakai, Howard Strawbridge. **Hartsdale:** Tina Hoerenz, Jay Mendelson, Tamara Rivera, Barbara Rosenberg, Johanna Smithers. **Irvington:** Eugene Linden. **Larchmont:** Stephen Bear, Amy Brelia, Judith Chananne, Richard Corenthal, John Handelsman, Michele Hoffmann, Paul Hundt, Lynn & Michael Reichgott, Caryl Mahoney, Bonnie Rodney, Megan Tingley, Jean Young. **Mamaroneck:** Susan Berenzweig, Arthur Goldstein, Lindagay Harmon, Ed Lemos, Kathleen Maclaughlin, John McIntyre, Theresa Michna, Ruth Spiro, Anthony Venezia, Joycemarie Washburn. **Mount Vernon:** Jackie Allemann, Robin Brown, Harold Lederman, Antonio Marques, Linda Murphy, Melisa Stasinos. **New Rochelle:** Karin Bartimole, Evelyn Breslaw, Gerilyn Brewer, C. Brown, Christina Colavito, Ann Cosentino, Donna Goodstein, Kenneth Lane, Kelly MacPherson, Gloria Marano, Richard Markell, Jeffrey Rifkin, Elizabeth Rikoon. **Pelham:** Philip Corbett, Kathryn Hanson, Elliot Strong. **Scarsdale:** Isabelita Balmaceda, Claire Bossung, Toby Crystal, Mauricette Gottesman, Carol Holley, Karen Shatz, Cathy Silvinski, Cosman Vaida, Barbara Weinreb. **Tuckahoe:** Carolyn McLaughlin, Diane Murgalo, Chad Sterrett.

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

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

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***Join!***

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

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