



# The BIRD CALL

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

## Bluebird Rescue

By Sandy Morrissey

We had a new experience on the bluebird trail in mid-July.

In a nestbox at Kensico Cemetery, I discovered 4 babies desperately begging for food. A similar experience last year told me that something had happened to their parents, and these abandoned babies would starve to death if I didn't do something.

I made the quick but scary decision to get them adopted. We fortunately had two other nests at Kensico with nestlings a couple days younger, plus a nest at a nearby location, Landmark.

So I could keep track of them, I banded 3 of the 4 babies before I put them into the adoptive nests. Unfortunately, the 4<sup>th</sup> baby was a tiny runt and too little to band.

I put the first adoptee into a nestbox that already had 5 babies. I prayed I

wasn't putting all of them at risk by adding a 6<sup>th</sup>.

The second nest at Kensico had 4 babies. I added a 5<sup>th</sup>, one of the adoptees, and then because I didn't know what else to do, I added a 6<sup>th</sup> – the tiny runt (with more prayers).

I took the last adoptee to Landmark, giving that nestbox 5 babies.

This was all during the extreme heat wave, and I knew that it was the second brood for these adults, so I was more than worried about all these babies. I did observe that each of these 3 nests had both male and female adults bringing food to the nests.

With trepidation, I went back the next day. All were alive, but some of the nestlings in the Kensico boxes were begging for food and the runt was begging non-stop. Had I done the right thing?



*This baby was clearly starving.*

I went back the day after that and all were still alive. All the birds now seemed to be well fed (not begging when I opened the box) – except the runt.

It occurred to me I might help a little by providing some mealworms and found some at a pet store. I tacked a cup of mealworms on the top of the boxes in

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## The 5 Rs of Reuse: Recover, Repaint, Remix, Reinvent, Rethink

By Linda Blair, ASID

Reusing old furnishings should always be considered when designing a new space. We've done that in our family over the years, and it has been successful for all.

Not only does this process "keep it in the family," it saves our precious natural resources like trees and "keeps our memories" of loved ones fresh and tangible. A china hutch and dining chairs from Aunt Elsie on my husband's side resides at our son and daughter's Westchester homes, Mother Magda's crystal antique light fixtures at mine, and at our son's apartment an antique marquetry chest that formerly housed a radio that gave my family in the early years news, music, "The Shadow" and "The Lone Ranger" — the memories from long ago alive. In my new home office I love using my

mother's Louis XV French desk in our elegant living room. Maybe our four children, spouses and six grandchildren will collect other heirlooms – valuable or not — down the road.

When talking about family treasures, I can't forget the center piece of our dining room, given to me half a century ago by my grandmother. It's a china cabinet created from Asian panels and screens, decorated with jade, ivory and mother of pearl figures.

### Cherished and Passed on Again

It's a simple fact that almost everyone knows — things are not made as well now as they used to be. Yet we continue to purchase new, some of us avoiding old items in search of brand-new ones the way many of our forebears insisted on wall-to-wall carpet and that first Maytag. But it wasn't always that way. Earlier ancestors came to their

new homes with items that had been in their families for years and years. And these items were cherished, used, cared for and passed on again.

There are many reasons why we should emphasize the reuse of furnishings in our homes today. We all now know that it's time to raise our sense of sustainability and make our world "green" for future generations.

We should consider the reuse of items to interrupt the solid waste hierarchy. Giving away your cabinet keeps it out of the waste stream with little effort. Reusing furnishings is also good for the environment by keeping virgin materials from being used, saving gas and oil consumption in packaging and trucking, and of course avoiding that landfill!

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**BRSS AUDUBON**

**P. O. Box 1108  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
www.brssaudubon.org**

**Board of Directors  
and Committee Members**

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Sandra Morrissey (h) 949-2531  
sandym@cloud9.net

*VICE PRESIDENT*

Doug Bloom 834-5203

*TREASURER*

Jeff Zuckerman 395-3083  
jeffzuckerman2000@yahoo.com

*SECRETARY*

Diane Morrison 725-7351

*Committees**MEMBERSHIP*

Clare Gorman 395-3083  
claregorman@yahoo.com

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Neil Powell 437- 8348

*YOUNG BIRDERS GROUP*

Dave Kaufman, Chair 777-1633

*CONSERVATION*

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Frank Di Marco 231-0214  
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Henry May 667-6144  
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Bob Wirsneck 834-1409

*HOSPITALITY*

Diane Morrison 725-7351

*PROGRAMS*

Diane Morrison 725-7351

*PUBLICITY*

Roz Wood 698-3568  
rozandalan@gmail.com

*NEWSLETTER*

Clare Gorman, Editor  
claregorman@yahoo.com

*WEBSITE*

Sandra Morrissey  
sandym@cloud9.net

*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*

**Welcome To All Of Our New Members****Bronx**

Michele Christon

**Bronxville**

William Cioffi

Estelle Feehan

Jennifer Jacquet-Murray

Monna MacLellan

William Renner

Rebecca Speiser

Janis Staggs

Helen Winter

Karen Wolfgang-

Swanson

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Janice Crisci

Midori Oller

**Hartsdale**

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Charles Campbell

Margaret Farrell

Erin Ferrara

Naomi Kinsler

Gerald Lindahl

Barbara Robb

Robert Shwab

Seth Solomon

Lionel Stewart

**Larchmont**

Lila Greisman

Patricia Mamara

Maureen McGowan

Lauren Miralia

Katherine Murphy

Lois Steinberg

Sally Weinraub

Derby Wit

**Mamaroneck**

Betsy Albert

Joli Goldberg

Lloyd Green

Laura Lord

Allan & Claire Wolkoff

**Mount Vernon**

Madeline Carter

Madeline Cohen

Joan Driscoll

Dolores Greenfield

Hilary Johnson

**New Rochelle**

Frances Carlin

Rhoda Dreifus

Sandra Edlitz

Jane Kreiswirth

Karen Loftus

William Lore

Marcie Mink

Rosemary Monroe

Krista Nilder

**Pelham**

The Deans

Heather Plamieri

**Scarsdale**

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John Botti

Cathy Carswell

Mary Caruso

Nancy Gonchar

Hilary Greenberg

Kathleen Griffin

Marco Helena

J. Holland

Sharon Jacquet

Russell Knapp

Rita Krosney

Jerome Liebowitz

Helene Murtha

Terry Singer

Deborah Tegan

Valerie Torcia

Richard Weber

**Tuckahoe**

Ginger & Donald Crosby

Cindy Hyatt

Daniel Ruvo

**Bluebirds**

*Continued from page 1*



*Cup with mealworms.*



*Feeding Tiny with tweezers.*

Kensico and the adults immediately took advantage of the free food. I hand fed "Tiny" with tweezers.

I did this routine for three more days, continuing to hand-feed Tiny.

I finally felt confident to band the remaining babies. The adoptees were 10 days old and their nestmates were 8. I banded the originals in the nest on the left leg so I could keep track of which were the adopted ones.

Sadly, Tiny was still too little to band, though still alive.

Checking the next day (babies 9 and 11 days old), all were alive and well, except sadly, Tiny had finally given up the fight.

Another monitor and I continued to check until the babies were 13 days old. After that, we couldn't open the nestboxes for fear of premature fledging.

After another week I went with breath held and fingers crossed and checked all the boxes.

With great relief, I was greeted with an empty nest in all three boxes. All had fledged.

At Landmark, I spotted both adults in the nearby trees. The male was making alarm calls the whole time I was there. The female had an insect in her beak. I tried in vain to find the fledglings that I knew were hiding in the trees. The adults' behavior assured me that the bluebird rescue was a success. We brought 3 extra bluebirds into the world that otherwise wouldn't have made it.

Whew! A happy ending!

*Sandy Morrissey is BRSS president and founder of its Eastern Bluebird Project. On October 18, at 7:30 pm at the Scarsdale Library, she will present a multi-media program of happenings along our bluebird trails, including this adoption story and what we've learned from banding our bluebirds.*

# PROGRAMS 2012/2013

**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 pm and the program begins at 7:30 pm.

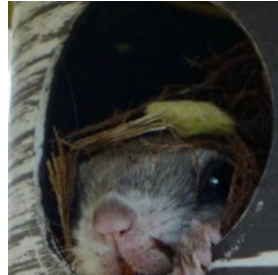
## **October 18, Thursday – Sights and Tales along our Bluebird Nestbox Trails**

Presenter is Sandy Morrissey, BRSS President and founder of our Eastern Bluebird Project, which now consists of over 200 nestboxes monitored by over 25 bluebird enthusiasts.

A multi-media presentation of happenings along our Eastern Bluebird trails. In addition to the nesting cycle of bluebirds, other topics include: what we learned from banding our bluebirds, an adoption story, and the battle for the box.

Location: Scarsdale Library.

Time: 7:00 pm.



*Squirrel inside Bluebird box.*

## **Nov. 15, Thursday - Live Raptors**

Presenter: Jim Eyring, Assistant Director of the Pace University Environmental Center in Pleasantville and Master Falconer, returns to thrill us with his presentation of live owls, hawks and falcons in a free-flying demonstration. Even if you have seen him before, you will find that each presentation is different. Jim's enthusiasm and story-telling skills will capture the attention of children and adults alike. Bring the kids and enjoy!

Location: Church Street School Gym, 295 Church Street, White Plains.

Time: 7:00 pm.

\*\* Program sponsored by CWAS with help from BRSS.

## **February 20, Wednesday - - Program TBA.**

Location: Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester. Time: 7:00 pm.

## **March 20,, Wednesday - Greenburgh Nature Center**

Location: White Plains Library, 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains.

Time: 4:30 pm.

## **April 18, Thursday - Program TBA**

Location: Bronxville Public Library, 201 Pondfield Rd., Bronxville.

Time: 7:00 pm.

## **May 22, Wednesday—The Arctic**

Presenters: Andy and Jane Cahn.

Andy and Jane Cahn, two seasoned educators and world travelers, offered us a most informative and interesting presentation on their trip to Antarctica this past year. They have recently returned from a trip to the Arctic and have agreed to share that experience with us as well. No penguins this time . . . but plenty of polar bears!

Location: Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester.

Time: 7:00 pm.

## **The 5 Rs**

*Continued from page 1*

### **My Children Don't Want My Furniture**

During a Scarsdale Woman's Club lecture on design, one attendee lamented she was moving to smaller quarters and her children didn't want her furnishings. I shrugged and recommended an auction house.

### **Trends Come & Go**

I know today we favor a simple, uncluttered, clean look, but that too hearkens back to the forties, fifties, sixties – 70's as well – as new generations like what the older ones had. Lighting, furniture and many accessory objects can be repainted, or distressed and antiques; my grandmother was known for painting old iron light fixtures white to totally transform them.

Older items are the link from past to present and the link towards a sustainable environment as well. I grew up and became a third generation interior designer, having lived with beautiful objects from all over the world. I never lost the wonder of different styles and cultures. Styles are "in," then "out,"



then back again in a decade or so. But trends notwithstanding, shepherding our planet towards increased sustainability should not go out of style, ever.

We can respect well-made and well-worn furnishings a little bit more for their history and craftsmanship, their vintage and style, the use they'll be on top of the earth not buried in it in a landfill. What's better than that for living in the 21st century?

*Linda Blair, ASID, NYSCID practices interior design from her Scarsdale office and works with clients in the metropolitan area and throughout the country.*

*Email [blairinteriors@aol.com](mailto:blairinteriors@aol.com).*

*Linda Blair treasures this antique china cabinet given to her a half century ago by her grandmother.*

## FIELD TRIPS for BRSS/CWAS 2012/2013

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

### September 16, Sunday - Meadowlands

Meet at Village Hall at 7:00 am or at Meadowlands at 8:00 am. Easy walking along trails around mudflats; migrating shorebirds, Herons, raptors and land birds.

### October 7, Sunday - Fire Island

Meet at Village Hall at 7:15 am. Looking for migrating hawks and land birds.

### October 21, Sunday - Larchmont Reservoir

Meet at the upper parking area at 8:00 am, looking for fall migrants. Across from entrance is sign that says Westchester Water Works Plant. Co-sponsored by Saw Mill River Audubon.

### November 18, Sunday - Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at Wild Bird Center at 8:00 am or at 9:00 at Refuge. We will be looking for early migrant waterfowl and late fall Migrants. Co-sponsored by WBC/Saw Mill River Audubon.

### December 23, Sunday - Christmas Bird Count

Contact Doug Bloom to Volunteer for this important bird survey. Volunteer

for a few hours or all day.

### January 6, Sunday - Jones Beach

Meet at 7:00 am at Village Hall or Coast Guard Station lot at 8:15. Wintering ducks and other birds. Possibly Snowy Owls.

### January 20, Sunday - Montauk

Meet at 7:00 am. We will be looking for wintering ducks and other birds. Possibly some alcids, like razorbills and dovekeys.

### February 2, Saturday - Eagle Walk

Meet at Wild Bird Center at 8:00 am for our annual Eagle walk or at Croton Point Park at 8:40 in big parking lot near Gazebo.

### February 9, Saturday - Annual Eagle Fest

Meet at Wild Bird Center at 8:00 am or at 8:40 at Croton point Park in large parking lot near gazebo. The Annual Eagle Fest runs from 9:00 to 4:00 and features different exhibits, live raptor shows and sites to see eagles.

### March 16, Sunday - Read and Marshlands

Meet at 8:00 am at Read Sanctuary. Looking for late wintering waterfowl and early spring migrants.

### April 7, Sunday - Larchmont Reservoir/Hommocks

Meet at Larchmont Reservoir at 8:00 am at upper entrance. Has sign opposite entrance that says Westchester Water Works Plant.

### April 21, Sunday - Sterling Forest

Meet at 7:15 am at Village Hall. Will be looking for early spring migrants, such as warblers, vireos, and other land and songbirds.

### April 28, Sunday - Rye Nature Center

Meet at 8:00 am at the nature center parking lot. We will be looking for early migrants such as warblers and other songbirds

### May 5, Sunday - Central Park

Meet at 7:30 am at 77<sup>th</sup> street at statue across from Museum of Natural History. We will be looking for spring migrants such as warblers, orioles and others.

### May 19, Sunday - Doodletown Road

Meet at 8:00 am at Doodletown Road. Best place to see Cerulean Warblers nesting and other migrants.

### June 7-9 - Adirondack Weekend trip

We will try to see many of the northern forest birds such as Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker and Gray Jays.

### BRSS Audubon Youth Birding Club Field Trip Schedule 2012 - 2013

All field trips begin at 9:00 a.m. For help carpooling to locations, contact Dave Kaufman ([dkaufman43@gmail.com](mailto:dkaufman43@gmail.com))

**September 22** – Marshlands - field, woodland & marsh birds

**October 20** – Crestwood Lake, Bronx River Parkway – water and parkland birds (meet in Crestwood Train Station parking lot)

**November 17** – Sheldrake Environmental Center/ Larchmont Reservoir – water and woodland birds (meet in Sheldrake parking lot)

**March 9** – Read Wildlife Sanctuary – feeder birds, ducks and shore birds.

**April 13** – Harts Brook Park & Preserve, Hartsdale – nesting baby owls and woodland birds

**May 11** – Rye Nature Center – woodland birds and spring warblers.

**June 8** - Kensico Cemetery – nesting bluebirds (meet at cemetery office, 273 Lakeview Ave., Valhalla)

*The Youth Birding Club learned about and helped band our bluebirds at Kensico Cemetery in the spring.*



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Bird Seed Sale

The BRSS Bird Seed Sale is your opportunity to buy premium quality bird seed and help us raise funds for our BRSS Audubon educational and environmental programs. **This is the BRSS Audubon's major fundraiser.** Our mixes contain only the seeds that local birds prefer, without any "filler" seeds often found in cheaper mixes sold at grocery and hardware stores. Due to this summer's poor growing season some prices have changed slightly but the quality remains high. Better seed attracts more birds.

A study by the US Fish and Wildlife Service showed that the favorite foods for birds in our area are sunflower seed, peanuts and millet. They are all available on our seed sale.

<b>Black Oil Sunflower Seed</b>	Smaller than stripe sunflower, black oil sunflower gives birds more energy in smaller seed with a thinner shell. All around favorite for chickadees, cardinals, titmice, others.
<b>Hulled Sunflower</b>	The meat of the sunflower seed without the outer shell. Totally edible. No mess of empty shells under your feeder. No clean-up. Perfect for decks and patios.
<b>Safflower Seed</b>	Loved by cardinals but not by squirrels, safflower is a problem solver seed helpful in discouraging furry visitors. All birds except blackbirds (Starlings and Grackles) eat it.
<b>Thistle/Nyjer</b>	A favorite of goldfinch and redpolls.
<b>Patio Mix</b>	Our best seller! A special blend of hulled sunflower and nuts. All shells removed. No mess under feeder. Birds love it. People like the fact that no clean-up is needed.
<b>BirdWise Blend</b>	Unique blend that contains only the seeds birds like best: 60% black oil sunflower, millet and peanuts.
<b>WoodpeckerWise</b>	A perfect balance of peanuts, dried fruit, hulled sunflower and tree nuts. A favorite for woodpeckers and others.
<b>FeederWise</b>	A premium, no-millet blend formulated to attract a wide variety of birds. Less attractive to sparrows and other ground feeding birds.
<b>Peanut Splits</b>	An amazing variety of birds love peanuts. It is a high energy food, a favorite of woodpeckers, jays, nuthatch, titmouse, chickadee and many others.
<b>Millet</b>	Attracts ground feeders such as Juncos, White-throats.
<b>Suet</b>	Particularly attracts woodpeckers and many others. Squirrels do not eat Pure Suet. 12 cakes per case.

**Here is how to order.**

1. Fill out the Order Form (enclosed with this newsletter)
2. Send your Order Form and payment to Doug Bloom  
 Attention: Seed Sale  
 22 Myrtle Blvd  
 Larchmont, NY 10538  
 OR fax your order with credit card info to (914) 713-0652.
3. Make sure we receive your order by October 5, 2011
4. Pick up your seed at  
 Wild Bird Center  
 400 Central Park Ave.  
 Scarsdale, NY
5. For further information or questions—call Doug Bloom 713-0630 (days), 834-5203 (evenings)



### A GREAT SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

Dear Audubon and Dr. Scott Mellis,  
 First, I would like to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE BEST WEEK OF MY LIFE!  
 My group and counselor were very nice. The counselor let us do crazy things like climb a tree to the very tippy top! On Monday the first day we went to the Salt Marsh. I got to see fiddler crabs which are native to America and my counselor told me that Asian Shore Crabs are invasive. While we were walking down to the salt marsh I saw some American Robins and when we got to the salt marsh I saw a Great Egret, Osprey and the nest with chicks inside! Then we walked back to camp to have lunch and from there we all went to the pond and got really really

really muddy looking for Ms. Jumbo the snapping turtle. Ms. Jumbo had 3 little babies. I caught one of the baby turtles. My friend George from England caught another one. The turtle I caught bit my pinky finger and it hurt a lot!  
 On Tuesday we had a fire drill so we would be safe. We went into the woods to play some games like predators and prey and after we played the games we went into a creek and got clay/mud! We made great things with it.  
 Then for the rest of the week we went back to the pond to try and get Ms. Jumbo but someone's foot got bitten. We managed to survive. We made bows and arrows out of a Norway Maple tree. We walked to a cave and made up a song on the way. When we got there I found a baby snapping turtle and the other group found a Rat Snake! While down at the pond we

caught a small spider crab and a fish and brought them back to the camp office and put them in the fish tanks! I never thought that slaying with a net was so much fun!  
 I thank you all for the best week and hope I can do it again!!!!  
 Sincerely,  
 Anthony Michael Colon



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