



EST. 1947

The

BIRD CALL

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

BRSS to Honor Congresswoman Nita Lowey at Annual Meeting on June 3rd — Join us

With great excitement, our Audubon Chapter will honor one of the “cardinals” of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Nita Lowey. At 6:00 p.m. on June 3rd, Ms. Lowey will attend our annual meeting at Five Island Park in New Rochelle. The evening begins with a bird walk and includes wine and cheese refreshments.

It was 1988 when Nita Lowey was first elected to Congress. Few members of Congress have taken key leadership roles on so many vital public policy issues. Lowey is a leading Congressional proponent of educational opportunity, health care quality and biomedical research, improved homeland security preparedness, stricter public safety laws, environmental protection, women’s issues, a leading international role for the United States and national security.

When Ms. Lowey first ran for Congress 22 years ago she pledged to clean up Long Island Sound. In 1990

she helped pass legislation establishing a special EPA office for L. I. Sound and has obtained many millions of dollars in federal funding for local clean-up efforts. David’s Island has been transformed by the \$26 million in federal funding and Army Corps of Engineer efforts championed and secured by Ms. Lowey. A co-founder of the Hudson River Caucus, Ms. Lowey has taken a key role in protecting the New York City watershed and in preserving strong environmental laws including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

Ms. Lowey has been married for 45 years and has three grown children and eight grandchildren. There is not a friendlier or more approachable member of Congress. Come and spend a few minutes with this remarkable woman.

Election of Officers and Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, BRSS members will be asked to vote approval of the following officers for a two-year



Congresswoman Nita Lowey announces \$7 million in funds for protecting Long Island Sound.

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 2013: Bernie Conway, Cece Fabbro, Bonnie Gould, Orlando Hidalgo and Henry May.

We hope to see all BRSS members on June 3rd at Five Island Park in New Rochelle.



We have no butterflies without caterpillars. We have no caterpillars without indigenous plants.

New Garden Book Teaches How to Go “Indigenous”

“Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.” That’s what you do when you rake all your leaves to the curbside in the fall. Hidden in these leaves are next year’s crop of butterflies – attempting to overwinter as eggs, caterpillars or chrysalises.

This was a revelation to me, an avid butterfly gardener, and just one of the many things I learned in Carolyn Summer’s new book, *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East*.

She begins by making a cogent case for using indigenous plants – plants that have evolved with the wildlife in our area over thousands of years and form

the foundation of the food chain that feeds our wildlife.

Ms. Summers then tells us how to incorporate indigenous plants in our garden designs. She has showy substitutes for all the common – and often invasive – non-indigenous plants found in most American gardens.

Don’t think you can’t have a formal, Versailles-style garden. She recommends many indigenous plants that lend themselves to the strong, geometric shapes that formal gardens require.

Read this book before you hit the garden nurseries. The fritillaries will thank you. *Sandy Morrissey*

BRSS AUDUBON

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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*

Beach Erosion—an Inexorable Fact

By Bernie Conway

In March, Mickey Maxwell Cohen gave an excellent program on the beaches of New York and how they are always shifting and moving. He began with a 1614 map by Adriaen Block who charted the coast of Long Island. Then he compared maps later in time – from the 1700s to 1900s – to show how a specific place, Breezy Point, moved as the shoreline changed.

The Breezy Point sandbar and marshland moved westward with each newer map. Mr. Cohen's talk explained why this happened.

Seasonal Beach Cycle

In summer the seas are calmer, the waves more gentle. The waves move the sand in a rolling motion onto the shore, building and adding to the beach. The water percolates into the sand and returns to the ocean underground.

In the winter months the storms are strong and severe, causing wind driven waves that crash on the beach and pull sand from the beach, causing loss of beach area. When a nor'easter hits, even greater amounts of sand are pulled out.

In addition to wave action, in the New York area there is an east to west longshore current that is constantly moving the sand deposited from waves in a westward direction (called littoral drift).

Man's Intervention

To prevent the natural occurring erosion of our beaches, man has been building up beaches using barriers of rock, concrete and other material. They alter littoral drift by slowing the strong waves and the currents' carrying capacity. These structures, called groins, can make things worse for some and better for others, as Mr. Cohen explained.

He used photos of a storm in 1983 at Westhampton Beach to show how groins worked to save some of the homes on the beach but resulted in devastation for others. The groins built up the beaches to the east of the west-most groin and the homes there survived. Because these groins had captured the normally west-



Now you see it; now you don't. Beach erosion is an unstoppable act of nature.

ward drifting sand, the beaches to the west of the last groin had shrunk and were breached by the surging sea, destroying many homes.

Jetties are built to help prevent erosion of bays and inlets. They are built horizontal to an inlet, slowing down water, allowing sand and debris to settle out and expand the beach. This has been a benefit for Breezy Point in Brooklyn, where land has been increasing. The down side is that Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn is getting eroded. Photos of the Plum Beach Art Deco Esplanade showed extensive erosion. This is all due to the jetty south of there at Breezy Point.



There will always be clouds hanging over houses built this close to the beach.

The latest method to attack beach erosion is to simply dump tons of sand, harvested from off shore, onto beaches. These are multi-million dollar projects that will only be short-term solutions, as the natural action of the waves, currents and

storms will return the sand to the sea.

The Future

In conclusion, Mr. Cohen commented that all the control efforts are not effective and are very expensive. He suggested protecting natural areas and to stop building on sandbars. This will save money and taxes. The other point he made is that with climate change, sea levels are rising and this will impact our beaches even further. Mr. Cohen explained that as the ocean rises one foot, 18 feet of property is lost at the coastline.

With these things in mind, as citizens, we all need to be aware of what is happening at our beaches, stop development of them, and realize we are the stewards of these beach environments.

Bernie Conway is a BRSS Board member.

Welcome New Members

We hope you will join in our field trips and programs

Bronxville

Laurence Annes
Lincoln Brabro
Sandy Jamieson
Elizabeth Johnson
Alexandra Marchosky
H.J. Megargel
George Michas
Karin Reetz
Patricia Rittman
Laurie Rockett
Olga Zimmerman

Eastchester

James Mauro
William Musselman

Hartsdale

Margaret Cornacchia
Rita Kalish
Jennifer & Andrew Lakin

Larchmont

Evelyn Berry
Ralph Candela
Patricia Connell
Catherine Crean
Eleanor & Eric Dreyfus
Barbara Girardi
Liz Heller
Alice Lasala
Stephanie O'Keefe
Doris Plateroti
Theodore Smith

Mamaroneck

Fred Beausoleil
Gail & Tony Gelber
Helen Sanders

Mount Vernon

Georgia Barnes
John Robin
Hy Schneider
Elisa Scullin

New Rochelle

Robert Andrews

Selma Berstein
Anastasia Brigante

C. Brown
Ann Engelland
Jamie Fee
Donna Goodstein
Caroline Harwood
Geraldine Katz
Denis Moise
Madeleine Mueller
Barbara Orentzel
Michael Stancaron
Aneris Torres
Kevin Toth

Pelham

Albert Blank
Ethan Luce
Anna Van Buren

Scarsdale

Helen Ballas
Jan Barnstead
Eleanor Brilliant
Daniel Browne
Richard Cacciato
Eileen Cohen
Judith Gelfand
Margaret Jokelson
D.G. Kluss
Emily Korzenik
Aaltje Meulen
George Muscillo
Edgar Roberts
Jacqueline Sareil
Adam Sternberg
Victoria Swarz
Star Wisdom

Tuckahoe

Ruth Bauer
Denise DeRosa
Deborah Maxwell
Linda Youngren

Yonkers

Phil Pepe

Upcoming Spring Field Trips

Please call Doug Bloom at 914-834-5203 (evenings) or 914-713-0630 (10:00—6:00 Tues. thru Sat.) to sign up or for more information and to arrange carpooling. Please call—we need to know how many to expect. All birders welcome, from beginner to expert.

Central Park

Sunday, May 2

Meet 7:30 a.m. at 79th St. across from Museum of Natural History. Our stroll through the *Ramble* could turn up over 50 species of local and migrating songsters. One of the top-10 birding hot spots in US.

Doodletown Road

Sunday, May 23

Meet at Scarsdale Village Hall at 7:00 a.m. or at Doodletown Rd. at 8:00 a.m. This is the only nesting location in lower NY state for our target species, the Cerulean Warbler. Chance for over 50 species as we canvass the winding, wooded trails.

Adirondack Weekend

June 4—6

Places we'll be going to are Ferd's Bog, Moose River Plains, Paul Smith's College VIC, Tupper Lake Marsh, Bigelow Road/Bloomingdale Bog, and Madawaska Bog. Expect to see several warbler species, thrushes, ruffed grouse,



BRSS birders searching for migrating warblers in Shakespeare's Garden in Central Park. Don't miss the show!

loons, six species of woodpeckers, and many other passerines. Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker and Boreal Chickadee are three specialties we might encounter.

To sign up and get information and accommodations, you must call Doug Bloom (telephone numbers above) or Andrew Block (h-914-337-1229 or c-914-886-5124).



Perfect Camouflage

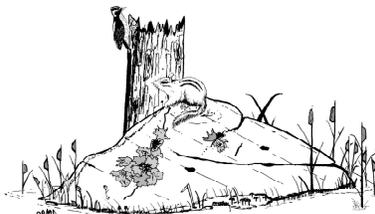
Can you find two owls in this picture? For the past several years, a Great Horned Owl pair has nested in Harts Brook Park in Hartsdale. One baby owlet and its mother look out from their nest cavity high in a dead tree snag.

Silver Lining in Winter Storms

By Tim Mack, Birdscape Designer

I think that we are going to have an increase in the clinger population this season due to this winter's big storms that downed and snapped off thousands of trees in our area, creating huge cavities for chickadees and wrens and also providing habitat for insects and their larvae. This means more food for songbird fledglings. Also areas that used to be heavily shaded will now get more sun. Look for more weeds and high grasses in these areas, which will be good habitat for insects, providing lots of protein for baby birds this summer.

Tim can be contacted at tygercrane212@aol.com.



Bluebird Programs Offered

BRSS Audubon will come to your organization (child or adult) and do a program teaching about the Eastern Bluebird, why its population decreased by 90%, and how Bluebird Enthusiasts are bringing it back. Participants can build birdhouses, which are then placed in good bluebird habitat. Pictured above is Brownie Troop 10593, which built two nestboxes. Contact Sandy Morrissey (sandym@cloud9.net or 914-949-2531) for more information.

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

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

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**Save the Date
BRSS Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 3**



Join!

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Please make \$20 check to National Audubon Society and mail to:
BRSS Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1108
Scarsdale, NY 10583

COZR080Z

Thanks for Supporting our Bird Seed Sale

By Doug Bloom, Seed Sale Chair

We want to thank all the customers who bought birdseed 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 \$2302.77. The total profit for the two seed sales this year is \$5061.36.

We would like to acknowledge the people who gave donations for the seed sale this year:

Harriett Miller, Mike Raffia, Sheema Bhattacharya, Valerie Marini, Vern Schramm, Neil Powell, Sandra Morrissey, Elaine Faver, Claire Gorman, Doug Bloom, Lois Kroll, Peggyann Munnick, Chris Broda, Diane

Morrison, Cece Fabbro, Gloria Haven-der, Warren Douglas, Otylia Wineburgh, Lu Gmoser, Judith Pinals, Barbara Schwartz, Bob Wirsneck, David Kaufman, Phyllis Wittner, Kareen Canora, Kristin Friedman, Ruth Gyure, Thomas Leissl, Ruby Morgan, Sue Peppers, Wilma Reidy, Joan Scheuer, Heather Seal-Breslin, Lorraine Slingerland, Mark Stot-sky, Laura Lee Strasser, Peter Thorp, Ellen Valle and Marilyn Varley.



Some of the proceeds from seed sales go toward sending children to the nature camps in the county parks. If anyone knows of any children who might want to do this, please contact a Board Member.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sheldrake Environmental Center
2010 Spring Festival
May 2, 1:00 - 4:00
Featuring hands on environmental education
Live music and live animals
Fun for the whole family

Sustainable Scarsdale Day
Scarsdale High School
Saturday, May 15, 9:00—1:00
Students, organizations and businesses will exhibit green projects, information and products to benefit the environment.