

The Case for Preserving Plum Island



Presented by the
Preserve Plum Island Coalition
March 2010

Introduction

Located less than a mile from Orient Point, the tip of Long Island's North Fork, lies the 843 acre, pork chop-shaped Plum Island. Well-known from Nelson Demille's book of the same title and even more so because of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center ("PIADC") that exists there, this wildlife rich island is a vital stopover site and breeding ground for migratory birds, seals and other species. Unfortunately, its ecological resources are in danger of being lost. In 2008, Congress approved sale of the island to a private party, with plans to move the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility to another state.

The U.S. government recognized the ecological importance of Plum Island when it declared the Peconic Estuary, where the island is located, **one of 28 "Estuaries of National Significance."** Hundreds of thousands of federal dollars have been spent on protecting this estuary and the hundreds of wildlife species that it supports. Development of Plum Island would run counter to the long standing effort to protect this federally recognized body of water. Well-respected private agencies have also recognized the importance of Plum Island and its adjacent smaller islands. Nearby Great Gull Island is a world class tern research station, owned and operated by the American Museum of Natural History. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has designated Plum Island as one of the **"Last Great Places on Earth."**

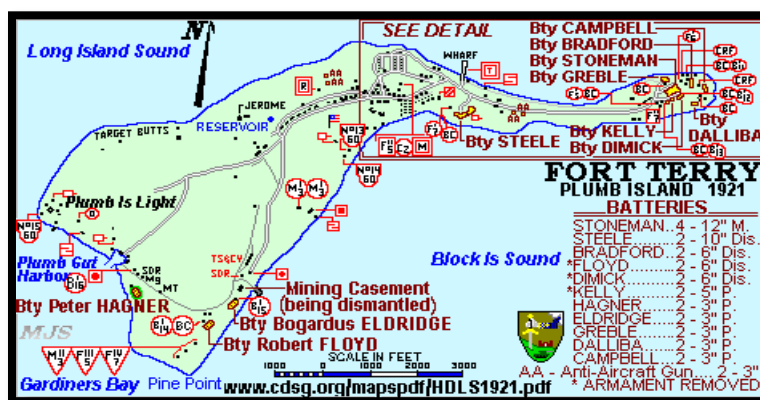
The approximately 90% of Plum Island that is undeveloped not only holds significant ecological and scenic sites -- it also holds nationally-significant artifacts and historic buildings -- including the 1870 Plum Gut Lighthouse and the 1897 Fort Terry army barracks and weapons batteries. Plum Island's scenic value, ecological resources and historic sites offer tremendous potential for recreation and public education, and make it an ideal candidate for permanent preservation.



Plum Island Lighthouse

History

Plum Island, so named from the abundance of beach plum shrubs that cover it, has a long and colorful history. First "owned" by the Corchaug and Mantauk Indian tribes¹ the island was sold to Samuel Wyllys for a coat, a barrel of biscuits and 100 fishhooks. The federal government first claimed ownership on Plum Island in 1826 when it purchased 13 acres for the site where the Plum Island Lighthouse would be constructed. The lighthouse, also referred to as the Plum Gut Lighthouse, was constructed a year later. In 1897 the property owner sold another 150 acres of the island to the federal government for the construction of Fort Terry, a fortification first used in the Spanish-American War. The rest of the island was purchased by the federal government in 1901.



Historical map of Fort Terry

¹ Alexandra Cella, "An Overview of Plum Island: History, Research and Effects on Long Island," *Long Island Historical Journal* 16, no.1-2 (2003- 4): 176-181.

Fort Terry was decommissioned and declared surplus in 1948. By 1954, under the aegis of the US Department of Agriculture, PIADC became operational. In 1991 the federal government turned over operations of the facility to a private party.

Environmental/Ecological Resources

Flora – Wetland, Shrub, Grassland, Forest and Dune Habitats

Despite the more than half a century of active use by staff at the Center, Plum Island still contains significant natural resources and possesses remarkable scenic, environmental value and recreational potential. The island has a mixture of rocky shoreline, sand beaches, wetlands, and various upland shrub, grassland, and forest habitats. Several regionally rare plant species occur here, including **Scotch loveage**, **slender knotweed**, and **sea-beach knotweed**. A stand of **blackjack oak** represents the northernmost extent of the range of the species. Additionally, several rare species of **orchids**, such as **Spring Ladies' Tresses** (see Appendix I), and **carnivorous plants** are found here. In addition, the island is extensively vegetated by several dozen woody and herbaceous plants and this vegetation provides habitat that supports a wide variety of bird and insect species. The large freshwater wetland situated in the southeastern section of the island offers suitable habitat for dozens of wetland dependent plant and animal species. According to historical data this wetland once comprised one of the larger **Atlantic White Cedar** swamps (now a rather rare type of wetland community in the state) in coastal New York and there may be opportunities for community restoration. The **maritime dune community** found on the island, dominated by grasses and low shrubs, is a **New York State Natural Heritage Program** ranked community (see Appendix I). This community consists of a mosaic of vegetation patches, reflecting past disturbances such as sand deposition, erosion, and dune migration. The composition and structure of the vegetation is variable depending on stability of the dunes, amounts of sand deposition and erosion, and distance from the ocean.



Spring Ladies' Tresses

Photo: NRCS Plants Database, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Beach Plum

Fauna – Threatened and Endangered Birds and Long Island’s Largest Seal Colony

Furthermore, based on detailed census work by Audubon staff over the past three years, over 80 bird species have been documented as breeding or foraging on Plum Island and adjacent coastal waters (see Appendices II and III). These include a variety of birds-of-prey, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and songbird species. In 2009 Audubon staffers noted 8 active **Osprey** nests and an active **Bank Swallow** colony, a species of bird on the decline in New York. Of special interest is the presence of **Piping Plovers**, a federally threatened species, which utilizes the shoreline habitat for breeding purposes. The Piping Plover shares this shoreline with several dozen **Roseate Terns**, a federally endangered species, and several hundred **Common Terns**, a NYS threatened species, which use the island as developmental habitat and for resting on its shoreline. The waters surrounding Plum Island are rich in nutrients and are vital feeding and courting grounds for birds such as these terns.



Piping Plover chick

As has been documented at other coastal islands and sites situated in southern New England, Plum Island undoubtedly provides critical stopover habitat for many fall migrant songbird species, many of which have not been fully documented in the census work discussed above because no detailed census work has taken place in late summer and autumn. Coastal islands are known to be vital for migrating land birds such as warblers, vireos, and thrushes, and many other birds that take advantage of the habitat to rest and feed (thereby refueling) before they continue their migration over water.

Moreover, the island and the waters surrounding it are important habitat for large congregations of numerous seabirds including several species of **loons, grebes and marine waterfowl species** such as **American Black Duck, Scaup species, Long-tailed Duck, all three Scoter species, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Eider and Red-breasted Merganser**. **Common Eiders**, known to breed from nearby Fisher's Island may also breed on Plum Island; if so this would be only the second location in the state where this well-known sea duck breeds. Plum Island is part of the Orient Point to Plum Island Important Bird Area (see Appendix I) based upon the presence of species at risk, such as the previously mentioned Piping Plover and Common Terns along with **Least Terns** and for its water bird congregations.



Surf Scoter – photo by Lloyd Spitalnik



Long-tailed Duck

The wetlands in the southwestern portion of the island host **Snapping and Painted Turtles**. The offshore waters, especially of Plum Gut, host large concentrations of **Striped Bass, Bluefish, Tautog, Summer Flounder** and others. Plum Gut is a major migration corridor for Striped Bass and **Atlantic Salmon**.

Common Dolphins have been sighted off the waters of the island. Additionally, aerial seal censuses conducted by staff from the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation have found that the immediate offshore rocks and the waters surrounding the island are used extensively by several dozen to as many as three hundred **Harbor and Grey Seals** during the winter months (see Appendix IV). Over the past decade the number of seals hauling out here has increased. According to researchers from the Riverhead Foundation, “Plum Island is one of the haul out sites most frequented by seals and consistently has the largest number of seals observed during surveys”.



Harbor Seals hauled out at Plum Island

Cultural Resources

As described in the introduction and history of the island, the island possesses significant cultural resources that merit protection. These notably include the Plum Island lighthouse and the remains of Fort Terry, a remnant from the Spanish-American War as well as World Wars I and II. The island was the site of an early **Revolutionary War** raid (when General David Wooster’s troops made an amphibious landing and attacked a British outpost, which had been raiding livestock on Long Island). During the **War of 1812**, British and American ships plied its nearby waters.

Just before the **Spanish-American War**, the federal government constructed **Fort Terry** as an artillery post, strategically located at the entrance of Long Island Sound. A unique aspect of this fort was a “mini-gauge” railroad with a locomotive and cars used to move materials about to the various batteries and buildings. The fort actually consisted of nearly two dozen buildings and fortifications spread throughout the island, mostly in the central and eastern end of the island. It remained an artillery post during **World War I**, and became an anti-submarine station during **World War II** when Nazi U-Boats trolled off the North American coast.

Immediately after World War II, Fort Terry was used as a research laboratory to study foot and mouth disease, and ultimately grew into the current PIADC. The U.S. government has also invested in the upkeep and preservation of the historic **Plum Gut Lighthouse** since it was built in 1827 atop an eroding bluff. It rebuilt the crumbling masonry in 1869-70 and spent more than \$1.5 million in recent years on erosion control. The Town of Southold and the East End Lighthouses organization have also raised tens of thousands of dollars for preservation of the lighthouse.



Proposed Sale of the Island

Despite these significant natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of Plum Island as described above, in 2008 Congress passed, and President Bush signed, PL 110-329, part of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act. This legislation has set in motion the federal government's sale of the island to a private party. This law requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to sell Plum Island if he/she finds that the PIADC (referred to as the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility) "be located at a site other than Plum Island." Said finding has been made, a site in Kansas has been selected for the new facility, and the General Services Administration is readying Plum Island for sale. This law requires that all proceeds from the sale of the island be used to offset the costs of constructing the new facility as well as decommissioning the existing facility on Plum Island.

Proposal of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition

In response to the proposed sale of Plum Island a number of conservation, environmental, and civic organizations have come together to form the "Preserve Plum Island Coalition" for the common purpose of protecting Plum Island (a list of Coalition members is included in Appendix V of the statement). **While coalition members are aware of the numerous options and strategies available to safeguard the island's resources (e.g. a state park) the Coalition strongly endorses the idea that all or a significant majority of the island be protected as a National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**

Following are several additional reasons why Coalition members support the idea of establishing a Plum Island National Wildlife Refuge:

Consistency with Other Refuges

Over the past three decades the federal government has established numerous National Wildlife Refuges in the eastern Peconic/southern New England region. These include, for example, Nomans National Wildlife Refuge, approximately three miles south of Martha's Vineyard; Block Island National Wildlife Refuge in the northern end of the island; Sachuest Point, John H. Chafee, Trustoms Pond, and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuges in coastal Rhode Island, the 10 units of the Stuart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge stretching along the Connecticut coastline; and the Elizabeth Morton National Wildlife Refuge in Sag Harbor, NY. Many of these refuges are very similar to Plum Island in terms of their species and community composition and were once properties held by the federal government to fulfill other governmental purposes. In our judgment the natural resources and environmental values of Plum Island are every bit the equal of these other places which were affirmatively protected by an Act of Congress. Indeed, it is noteworthy that many of the Refuges were declared surplus by the federal government, but rather than being sold to the private sector, were instead transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to preserve the valuable natural resources contained therein.

Role of Federal Government in Open Space Protection on Long Island

The preservation of open space and establishment of public parkland has been the signature conservation achievement by various Long Island governments. Seven Suffolk towns have collectively spent nearly \$400 million to preserve open space while Suffolk County has committed at least that much, together preserving tens of thousands of acres. New York State has committed over \$100 million over the past two decades in acquiring key open space parcels. Despite this remarkable, indeed unprecedented, commitment by New York State and local governments on Long Island, the federal government's role in land protection has been unfortunately inconsequential. Preserving Plum Island by designating all or a significant majority as a National Wildlife Refuge would be a meaningful demonstration of the federal government's commitment to protecting key open spaces in the New York metropolitan area.

Economic Benefits

As several studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have shown, refuges can be very popular sites for public visitation, thereby helping to underpin local economies, both by permitting certain extractive activities as well as promoting ecotourism. We believe that a “Plum Island National Wildlife Refuge” in which the public gains access to explore the island, orient themselves and learn about the island at a visitor center, visit the lighthouse and the remains of Fort Terry, enjoy the unparalleled scenic views and wildlife viewing opportunities, all the while hiking on the island’s numerous trails would help achieve this desirable economic goal.

Conclusion

The Preserve Plum Island Coalition is deeply concerned about the passage of the federal law that will result in the sale of Plum Island and the loss of the numerous values described above. We strongly believe the island should remain an asset of the federal government and be made available for appropriate public use and enjoyment by becoming a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a course of action consistent with safeguarding the island’s sensitive wildlife and ecological value

The Coalition calls on members of the New York State Congressional delegation to introduce legislation to reverse the proposed disposition and move to permanently protect all or a significant majority of the island by establishing the **Plum Island National Wildlife Refuge**, an action entirely consistent with past Congressional actions regarding other federal properties declared surplus and afforded permanent protection.



*Least Tern and chick
Photo by Lloyd Spitalnik*

Appendix I Descriptions and Classifications

Important Bird Area: The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) is a global effort by the National Audubon Society to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. IBA's are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of bird. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds.

New York Natural Heritage Program and Global Ranking of Plum Island: The New York Natural Heritage Program surveys and monitors rare animals, rare plants, and significant ecological communities throughout the state via a partnership between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and The Nature Conservancy. The mission of this program is to facilitate conservation of rare animals, rare plants, and natural ecosystems, which are commonly referred to as "natural communities." This mission is accomplished by working collaboratively with partners inside and outside New York to support stewardship of New York's rare plants, rare animals, and significant natural communities, and to reduce the threat of invasive species to native ecosystems.

G4 - apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery
S3-typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream in New York State- status.

Spring Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes Vernalis*): This plant reaches the northern limit of its range in southeastern New York and southern New England. Extant populations in New York are limited to Suffolk County where only 5 of 17 historical populations have been re-located (Lamont 1996). While conducting a floristic inventory of Plum Island, just east of Orient Point in Suffolk Co., Eric Lamont and Richard Stalter observed more than 1000 flowering individuals of *S. vernalis* scattered throughout the island in August 2004. Small colonies occurred in several grassy openings but the vast majority of individuals were found in the former parade ground bordering the island's south shore; in 2004, the parade ground had not been mowed as frequently as in recent past years. The Plum Island population of *S. vernalis* was the largest in New York in 2004. Revisiting the island in 2005 revealed that the population size had dramatically decreased, even though the former parade ground had not been mowed before August. It is unclear what factors may have influenced the emergence of such high numbers of flowering individuals in 2004. Excerpted from: Lamont, Eric E. (The New York Botanical Garden) and Stephen M. Young (New York Natural Heritage Program)
Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society (oldest botanical journal in N & S America)
2006, Volume 133, pages 655-656
Spiranthes vernalis Engelm. & A. Gray
Spring Ladies'-tresses
Orchidaceae, the Orchid Family

Appendix II

Species Data and Criteria Orient Point to Plum Island IBA

Common Name	Date	Seasonal/ Daily	Season	# Observed	Density (/km ²)	Units	Proposed Criteria	Confirmed Criteria
American Oystercatcher	2006	D	breeding	2		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2004	D	breeding	1		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2001	D	breeding	2		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
Piping Plover	2006	D	breeding	2		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2005	D	breeding	1		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (this observation only includes the Orient Point survey area)						
	2004	D	breeding	4		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2003	D	breeding	3		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2002	D	breeding	2		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2001	D	breeding	3		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (these observations include the Orient Point and Plum Island survey areas)						
	2000	D	breeding	2		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (this observation included the Orient Point survey area only)						
	1998	D	breeding	7		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1997	D	breeding	6		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						

	Text:							
	1996	D	breeding	9		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1995	D	breeding	5		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1994	D	breeding	8		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1993	D	breeding	5		Breeding pairs	A1 - Global Species of Conservation Concern	D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
Roseate Tern								
Common Tern	2004	D	breeding	40		Breeding pairs		D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	Mike Wasilco pers. comm. 2004; At least 40 nesting pairs						
Least Tern	2005	D	breeding	7		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (includes the Orient Point survey area only)						
	2001	D	breeding	2		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (observations from the Orient Point survey area only)						
	2000	D	breeding	11		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (observations from the Orient Point survey area only)						
	1999	D	breeding	15		Breeding pairs		
	Source Text:	NYSDEC Long Island Piping Plover and Colonial Waterbird Surveys (observations from the Orient Point survey area only)						
	1998	D	breeding	27		Breeding pairs		D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1997	D	breeding	16		Breeding pairs		D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1996	D	breeding	108		Breeding pairs		D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1995	D	breeding	23		Breeding		D1 - State Species of

						pairs		Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1994	D	breeding	16		Breeding pairs		D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						
	1993	D	breeding	48		Breeding pairs		D1 - State Species of Conservation Concern
	Source Text:	NY Natural Heritage Biodiversity Databases						

**Appendix III
Plum Island Bird Surveys**

Species	1/25/07	3/5/07	6/27/07	7/13/07	11/27/07	6/19/08	7/5/08
American Black Duck	169	10			15		7
American Crow ^C	15	18	11	12	16	13	13
American Goldfinch ^P	1		7	7	3	8	13
American Kestrel	2	1	1				
American Oystercatcher ^{C,P}			13	9		5	8
American Redstart ^P			1	4		4	6
American Robin ^{C,P}	2	1	10	29	1	24	16
American Wigeon	12	45					
American Woodcock		1					
Bank Swallow ^{C,P}			76	129		126	266
Barn Swallow ^C			20	40		45	48
Black Scoter	3		1				
Black-capped Chickadee	4	2			5	7	7
Blue Jay	2		1	3	1	2	1
Brown Thrasher							2
Brown-headed Cowbird ^P			5	1	41	3	16
Canada Goose ^C	70	75	47	51	12	110	173
Carolina Wren	1	1	1	3	1	6	4
Cedar Waxwing ^{C,P}			20	15		28	30
Chipping Sparrow						1	1
Common Eider ^{C,P}			15	32	1	2	3
Common Goldeneye	12	26					
Common Grackle				2	152		
Common Loon	32	9			37		
Common Tern ^C			164	62		1162	113
Common Yellowthroat ^C			26	26		23	50
Coopers Hawk		1					
Dark-eyed Junco					1		
Double-crested Cormorant ^C			96	116	11	229	141
Downy Woodpecker	2		1	1			1
Eastern Kingbird ^P				4			1
Eastern Towhee ^{C,P}			20	22		24	30
European Starling ^C	40	30	9		66	10	5
Gadwall	2						
Gray Catbird ^{C,P}			13	31	1	30	58
Great Black-backed Gull ^P	1	15	10	14	40	27	29
Great Blue Heron							1
Great Cormorant	10	2			7		
Great Egret			2			4	13
Great-crested Flycatcher			1				
Greater Yellowlegs				14			1
Herring Gull ^C	79	99	6		69	5	12
Hooded Merganser		14					
Horned Grebe	2						
House Finch ^P		3		1		4	4
House Sparrow ^C				2		3	
House Wren ^C			6	9		9	18
Killdeer ^{C,P}		3		1		7	2

Species	1/25/07	3/5/07	6/27/07	7/13/07	11/27/07	6/19/08	7/5/08
Laughing Gull			1		1		
Long-tailed Duck						1	
Mallard	2	3			4		
Mourning Dove					4		
Mute Swan		2					
Northern Cardinal	2		2	4	5	5	10
Northern Flicker	1	2		1	1		2
Northern Gannet	250				12		
Northern Goshawk		1					
Northern Harrier	1	2		1	1	1	2
Northern Mockingbird	1		2	4		8	6
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			3	2		6	4
Osprey ^{C, P}			5	20		18	18
Peregrine Falcon					1		
Purple Sandpiper		25					
Razorbill	1						
Red-breasted Merganser	43	19		1	49		
Red-eyed Vireo							2
Red-shouldered Hawk		2					
Red-tailed Hawk	2	4	1	5	2	6	3
Red-throated Loon					8		
Red-winged Blackbird ^{C, P}		5	10	30		24	43
Ring-billed Gull	1						
Rock Pigeon				1			
Roseate Tern			20	17		26	13
Rough-legged Hawk	1						
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1					
Song Sparrow ^C	4	3	13	16	2	22	41
Spotted Sandpiper ^C				5			4
Surf Scoter	300	1	2		2		
Tree Swallow			1	20		5	8
Tufted Titmouse	1		1				1
Turkey Vulture ^P		2	2			2	
White-eyed Vireo ^P			4	9		8	10
White-throated Sparrow	12	5			10		
White-winged Scoter	36	4			3		
Willow Flycatcher			1				1
Yellow Warbler ^{C, P}			11	10		25	17
Yellow-rumped Warbler		6					
TOTAL # Individuals	1120	443	662	786	585	2078	1278
TOTAL # Species	37	36	43	43	34	42	50

^C Confirmed Breeding							
^P Probable Breeding							

23 confirmed breeding species

19 probable breeding species

8 probable species not in confirmed list

31 unique probable/confirmed species

June 2009 Survey

Species	#	Breeding
Canada Goose	129	confirmed
Double-crested Cormorant	184	confirmed
Great Egret	4	
Glossy Ibis	2	
Turkey Vulture	1	
Osprey	8	confirmed
Piping Plover	1	confirmed
American Oystercatcher	5	probable
Spotted Sandpiper	1	
Laughing Gull	4	confirmed
Herring Gull	8	
Great Black-backed Gull	16	
Roseate Tern	28	
Common Tern	554	confirmed
Mourning Dove	1	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	
Northern Flicker	1	
Eastern Kingbird	2	probable
White-eyed Vireo	9	
Blue Jay	1	
American Crow	3	
Tree Swallow	1	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	7	
Bank Swallow	111	confirmed
Barn Swallow	51	
Black-capped Chickadee	1	
Tufted Titmouse	1	
Carolina Wren	3	
House Wren	9	
American Robin	36	confirmed
Gray Catbird	35	confirmed
Northern Mockingbird	4	
Brown Thrasher	1	
European Starling	42	confirmed
Cedar Waxwing	23	
Yellow Warbler	16	probable
Prairie Warbler	1	
American Redstart	5	probable
Common Yellowthroat	30	
Eastern Towhee	30	
Song Sparrow	25	
Northern Cardinal	3	
Red-winged Blackbird	32	probable
Common Grackle	11	
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	probable
Orchard Oriole	2	probable
Baltimore Oriole	1	
House Finch	4	probable
American Goldfinch	5	
House Sparrow	2	probable

(Source: Audubon New York's Orient Point to Plum Island IBA conservation committee. Please note that the list of species is not comprehensive and only reflects the individuals detected during the surveys.)

**Appendix IV
Pinniped Flight Summary**

Flight Date	GMT Time	Local Time	Site Name	Species	Total Estimated During Flight
1/3/2007		15:32:52	Plum Island	P. vitulina	12
3/26/2007		10:52:46	Plum Island	P. vitulina	220
1/19/2008	18:29:41	13:29:41	Plum Island	P. vitulina	225
3/3/2008	16:49:06	11:49:06	Plum Island	P. vitulina	90
3/18/2008	16:20:00	11:20:00	Plum Island	P. vitulina	150
1/26/2009	20:55:01	15:55:01	Plum Island	P. vitulina	300
2/26/2009	20:53:11	15:53:11	Plum Island	P. vitulina	163
3/25/2009	19:00:06	14:00:06	Plum Island	P. vitulina	175
4/24/2009	19:51:32	14:51:32	Plum Island	P. vitulina	200
5/6/2009	18:11:58	13:11:58	Plum Island	n/a	0
6/7/2009	20:42:45	15:42:45	Plum Island	P. vitulina	15

* Info taken from Pinniped Flight Summary 2001-2009
P. vitulina – Harbor Seal

**Appendix V
Coalition Members**

American Littoral Society, Northeast Chapter

Director: Don Riepe
www.alsnyc.org

Andrew Sabin Family Foundation

Audubon New York

Executive Director: Al Caccese
<http://ny.audubon.org/>

Blue Ocean Institute

President: Carl Safina, Ph.D.
www.blueocean.org

Burke, Dr. Russell

Department of Biology
Hofstra University
www.people.hofstra.edu/russell_1_burke

Citizen's Campaign for the Environment

Executive Director: Adrienne Esposito
www.citizenscampaign.org

Draud, Dr. Matthew

Chair of Biology
C.W. Post - Long Island University

Eastern Long Island Chapter of Surfrider Foundation

East Hampton Town Natural Resources Department

Director: Larry Penny
www.town.east-hampton.ny.us/Natural.cfm

Environmental Defense Fund

Executive Director: David Yarnold
www.edf.org

Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast

Chairman / President: Timothy M. Green, M, Ph.D., CWB
www.fern-li.org

Group for the East End

President: Robert S. DeLuca
www.eastendenvironment.org

Hays, Helen

Ornithologist, Great Gull Island

Long Island Audubon Council:

Eastern Long Island Audubon

President: Eileen Schwinn
www.easternlongislandaudubon.homestead.com

Great South Bay Audubon

President: Alice Heller
www.gsbas.org

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon

President: Stella Miller

www.hobaudubon.org

Four Harbors Audubon

President: Susan Kraus

www.fourharborsaudubon.org

North Shore Audubon

President: Peggy Maslow

www.northshoreaudubon.org

North Fork Audubon

President: Diana VanBuren

www.northforkaudubon.org

South Shore Audubon

President: Wendy Murbach

www.ssaudubon.org

Long Island Botanical Society

President: Eric Lamont

www.libotanical.org

Long Island Paddlers

President: Steve Berner

www.lipaddlers.org

Long Island Pine Barrens Society

President: Richard Amper

www.pinebarrens.org

Long Island Soundkeeper

President: Brooks Campion

www.soundkeeper.org

The Nature Conservancy on Long Island

President: Nancy Kelley

www.linature.org

North Shore Land Alliance

President: Lisa Ott

www.northshorelandalliance.org

Peconic Baykeeper

President: Kevin McAllister

www.peconicbaykeeper.org

Peconic Land Trust

President: John Halsey

www.peconiclandtrust.org

Regional Plan Association

President: Robert D. Yaro

www.rpa.org

Sierra Club LI Group

Conservation Co-Chair: Bill Stegemann

www.LISierraClub.org

Sustainable Long Island

Deputy Director: Jennifer Rimmer

www.sustainableli.org

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