

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaadubon.org.

- Aug. 26 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Sep. 2 *Labor Day Weekend — No Walk*
- Sep. 9 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Sep. 16 Marine Nature Study Area (Oceanside)
- Sep. 23 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Sep. 30 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Oct. 7 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

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BE A CARBOLOGIST FOR A DAY

After SSAS's dragonfly walk, you can be a volunteer at the 22nd Annual New York State Beach Cleanup, which is organized in New York by the American Littoral Society and is part of the International Coastal Cleanup of The Ocean Conservancy.

When: September 15, 2007

Where: At over 300 beaches, rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes statewide. For the most up-to-date listing, visit www.alsnyc.org. Contact the site captain for the meeting time.

Who: Thousands of volunteers from local environmental groups, students, scouts, dive clubs, civic organizations, corporations, government agencies, and the general public. In 2006, over 10,000 New Yorkers came together to do something constructive for the environment, removing and documenting 272,000 pounds of debris at 321 sites.

Why: To compile data to devise strategies to combat pollution, to increase public participation in solving the problems of pollution, and to increase public appreciation of the coastal environment.

Litter is not only unsightly; it poses threats to wildlife. Birds become entangled in discarded fishing line and 6-pack ring holders; marine mammals ingest plastics that can obstruct their intestinal tracts.

Volunteers: Call the Beach Cleanup Hotline (1-800-449-0790) or visit www.alsnyc.org. For further information, contact Barbara Cohen, Beach Cleanup Coordinator, at 718-471-2166 or alsbeach@aol.com.

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE

After the *Skimmer* went on summer vacation, we had our spring cleanup at 20-acre Brookside Preserve. SSAS thanks the following for making our April 29 cleanup a success: Jim Brown, Andrea DeMarco, Charlie Fisenne, Joe Grupp, Betsy Gulotta, Rick Huhn, Sarah Huhn, Charlie Kiefer, Therese Lucas, Christine Marzigliano, Susan Pratt, Hilary Rosenthal, Steve Schellenger, and Rebecca Zubrovich. We also thank the Freeport Kiwanis Club's Greg Abbate, Pat Bockland, Ken Dash, and Jim Kawiakides for the cleanup they did on July 28.

Brookside, on the Freeport-Baldwin border just north of the LIRR, is owned by Nassau County and managed by SSAS. Our Brookside Committee expects to have a busy autumn and seeks new members; see the next *Skimmer* for details or give Betsy or George a call (please see back page for phone numbers).

SSAS Mission Statement—The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



Explore the coast with the **AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY**

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (Sun., Sept. 23 & Sat., Oct. 13, 4–7 P.M.). Meet in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn for a 3-hour narrated tour of the backwater marshes of the bay aboard the brand new 101-foot boat "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the history, ecology & wildlife of this 13,000-acre preserve. See egrets, herons, ibis, osprey, peregrine falcon, shorebirds, and waterfowl during peak migration time. Cost: \$45/person includes wine & cheese, fruit, drinks, snacks.

NYC AUDUBON HAWK WATCH (Sun., Sept. 30, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at Bldg. 1 in Fort Tilden, Rockaway for a hike to the beach, dunes, and hawk watch platform during peak raptor migration time. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve, call Don.

CHINCOTEAGUE/ASSATEAGUE FALL BIRDING (Nov. 1–4). An extended weekend at a great coastal preserve. See bald eagle, brown pelican, and many species of waterfowl plus wild horses, river otter, Sika deer, endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, and lots more. Cost: \$345 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guided hikes of refuge and national seashore, plus Saturday night "All-ya-can-eat" seafood dinner.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, driepe@nyc.rr.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN, GOLDEN EAGLES, AND WIND POWER

Editor's long intro: The effect of windmills on birds has been a prominent topic at recent meetings of the Long Island Audubon Council. Last fall, all seven LI chapters (SSAS is the largest) endorsed the following statement, which was drafted by Huntington Audubon's conservation chairperson, Jerry Hannon: "Moved, that the Long Island Audubon Council adopt a position that discourages any support for the Long Island Wind Farm proposal until such time as the extensive studies of potential bird mortality, as recommended by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, demonstrate little or no harm, and that appropriate studies of other potential hazards, such as the effects upon marine mammals and fish, are similarly completed. We further note that supporting proposals, such as the Long Island Wind Farm, should not precede the completion of environmental studies, competently and objectively structured and executed, and that nonobjective support of such proposals by environmentalists can never be considered ecologically sound." LIPA and FPL Energy (which would build the 40-turbine Long Island Offshore Wind Park along our South Shore) have not done the studies recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but these may be required when the federal Minerals Management Service responds to the scoping comments submitted last summer.

In Audubon New York's "State and Federal Conservation Policy Resolutions 2007," which consists of resolutions proposed and approved by NY's chapters, the resolution on "Impacts of Towers and Other Structures on Birds" includes the following: "Resolved, that Audubon New York opposes wind power development on sites determined to be of high risk to bird populations, including: 1) sites of known local bird migration pathways or in areas where birds are highly concentrated during migration; 2) sites in habitats known to be important to state and federally listed bird species; 3) Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs) identified for their importance to large numbers of migrants, either raptors or nocturnal migrants; and 4) IBAs and BCAs where construction of the turbines (i.e., the footprint) would significantly lower the habitat value of the site."

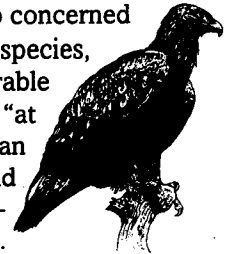
I received the following from Tom Salo, who is the president of Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society and the co-chair of their Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch:

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch in the northern Catskill Mountains is among the best places in the east to see Golden Eagles. Its reputation results from a team of dedicated volunteer hawk counters and cooperative eagles. We are actively working to maintain good levels of both counters and eagles.

Regularly, over 200 magnificent goldens pass the site during their migration south. If you've visited the hawkwatch on a good day, you've seen them flying 200

feet off the ground, using the updraft from the ridge to glide its length. This migratory behavior, where birds concentrate along ridges, is typical of Golden Eagles. Unfortunately, it puts the birds in the very same space that some developers have targeted for siting wind power projects.

At Franklin Mountain, we understand the threats posed by the burning of fossil fuels. We support properly sited wind projects. However, we are also concerned about impacts to birds and bats. As a species, Golden Eagle seems especially vulnerable to wind turbines. Some consider it "at the highest risk" for collisions. Avian Impact Assessments for proposed wind projects in the Golden Eagle migration corridor generally are inadequate.



As many as 60,000 wind turbines will be required to reach national energy goals. Many will be built along the ridges of New York and Pennsylvania. Some of those ridges — such as Franklin Mountain — attract raptors.

Knowing that more eastern goldens pass our site than anywhere else this far north, we feel a special responsibility to protect "our" birds. This isn't easy, since away from our site and a few others, almost nothing is known about how they migrate through New York. To learn more about this NYS endangered species so it can be protected, we have joined with several organizations studying Golden Eagles in Pennsylvania. We are working to expand their ongoing study of migration routes into New York.

The project involves trapping eagles and fitting them with transmitters that provide a wealth of data on the birds' locations and movements. The Global Positioning System (GPS) telemetry devices last 2 years or more. They provide 10 to 15 precise locations each day, including elevation. This will tell us where they roost, nest, and forage. This also provides the kind of precise information needed to develop migration models to help guide the safe siting of wind projects.

Part of the migration modeling involves recording data on each individual golden that passes the site. We are hoping to recruit some extra help to record this data during the peak golden migration.

The technology is expensive but ideally suited to this research. We urge anyone concerned about impacts to Golden Eagles to help support this important work. Please consider spending some time at Franklin Mountain — skilled hawk counters are always needed. For those who are not ready to count, we also need help spotting birds and collecting data. For more information, visit www.doas.us or write to DOAS Golden Eagle Research, P.O. Box 544, Oneonta, NY 13820.

Our collaborators at the National Aviary and Carnegie Museum of Natural History are already [August 7] tracking three eagles. We followed those birds north in the spring and hope to spot them if they pass Franklin Mountain this fall.

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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



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BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS
Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Option 2. To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues-share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

➔ **Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!



Yes, I'd like to join: SSAS only National Audubon too

NAME: _____

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