VOLUME 39, NUMBER 1 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2008

NEXT MEETING

Enid Kiein

DATE:

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

TIME:

7:30 P.M.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Libraru

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)

TOPIC:

SPEAKERS: Trudy Baltaly & Drew Panko The Ecology of Saw-Whels in

Southeastern NY

Saw-whet Owls, the smallest owls in the northeast, are found in our region during fall and winter. Where do they come from? How long do they stay? Will they come back next year? Do they ever stay to breed?

For four years, this month's guest speakers have been trying to learn all they can about these owls. They have some very interesting encounters to share with us, some answers, and many more questions about these "wonderful" creatures (pictured on p. 3). Their studies have focused on locations in the Bronx and Westchester, but have also included efforts in Rockland and Queens.

Trudy and Drew are familiar to veteran SSAS members as the coordinators of the Fire Island Hawk Watch, on which they did a program for us five years ago. They have been counting raptors at Fire Island since 1982; you can visit www.battaly.com for 25 years of watch data, bird and mammal videos, and lots of other stuff.

Trudy has been banding birds since 1980; information about banding is also on her website. She coordinates the Hook Mountain Hawk Watch in Rockland County and is a board member of the organization Northeast Hawk Watch, which serves New England, eastern New York, and northeastern New Jersey.

Drew started "chasing birds" in the 1970s, with a special interest in hawks and owls. He taught high-school chemistry, physics, and ecology in Yonkers for 33 years, and has been tutoring and consulting in environmental matters and education for the past dozen years. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. each month, Scott Oglesby expands our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

Parking Lots. In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the Crystal gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

Don't Park at Citibank! Our previous agreement with Citibank and its towing company has unfortunately ended. If you park in their lot, your vehicle is likely to be towed!



IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

shade-grown coffee protects rainforests!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wendy Murbach

The summer is nearly over. Time for a new season of exciting programs, informative and interesting meetings, excellent birding expeditions, activism on behalf of the environment, and chances to educate oneself and others about natural things.

Time for a new president too. That would be me, Wendy Murbach. Before I go any further, I would like to thank our previous president, Michael Sperling, for his time and talents in guiding South Shore Audubon Society for the past three years. There were many wise and good decisions made during his tenure.

I am a birder, a biology major (concentration in zoology in college), a camper, hiker, boater, and outdoor person. I have been an elementary school teacher, an industrial librarian, a computer programmer, and have begun two computer businesses (web page design) of my own. I've been South Shore Audubon's membership chair since 2000, nominating chair for the past four years, and vice president for the past three years.

I want to urge you to participate in South Shore Audubon Society. Participation brings with it so many pluses: making interesting and good friends, learning how the chapter works, getting the chapter going in the way that interests you, and making a real difference by your activism, not to mention having fun while all that is going on. I tell you this from my own experience.

There is a place where you fit in and will be valuable... Do you like to chat with like-minded people? Then sit at a table at one of our festivals and chat with those who are interested enough to stop and check us out... Do you like kids? Be a bus chaperone when we send economically underprivileged children to TR Sanctuary nature camp...

Do you like to bird? Join our bird walks or participate in our research birding expeditions...



Are you good with figures, with words, can you organize? Then you will be good on the membership committee, the finance committee, or maybe the planning committee. Is there something you think you'd like to see happen? You can set it up. Get involved, it is lots of fun.

Looking forward to this new year, looking forward to seeing you.

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.

KEEP UP WITH LOCAL ISSUES!

In addition to topics mentioned in this Skimmer, SSAS's board has been busy since the May-August issue on other fronts, attending meetings and/or press conferences involving efforts to pass a Bigger Better Bottle Bill in New York (whose perennial chief opponent, Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, retired in July), the proposed 150-acre Lighthouse development for the Nassau Hub, the "Trump on the Ocean" restaurant/catering hall scheme at Jones Beach, Nassau County's attempt to lease away 35 acres of open space near Coes Neck Road and Milburn Creek in Baldwin (most likely for athletic fields sought by Molloy College), development threats to the Calverton Grasslands, and liquid natural gas proposals off our south shore. By the time you read this, we will have attended a meeting regarding a proposed bicycle path along Ocean Parkway from Zach's Bay to Captree (which we first opposed five years ago). Sign up for our e-list (see bottom right) to keep up with what's going on (including bird stuff) and to let your voice be heard!

RECOLLECTIONS OF OUR 2008 ANNUAL DINNER

Therese Lucas

The array of donations provided by our generous sponsors for the super raffle and Chinese auctions, the delicious menu presented by Coral House, our 50–50 and Birdathon raffles, and the background music provided by Toby Tobias with Steve Blatt created a lovely evening for all of the guests.

The annual conservation award was presented to Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr., for engaging our minds and spirits to the wonders of the natural world around us and the importance of taking action to maintain a safe environment for all.

Special thanks to my committee members, Marilyn Hametz, Wendy Murbach, Chris Schmitt, and Michael Sperling.

Circle your calendar for the second Tuesday in June 2009!

Dinner Sponsor Acknowledgments

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Tallulah's
Tallulah's
Whispering Pines

Trader Joe's Whispering Pines
Wick's Florist Wild Birds Unlimited
WMF Julie Zickefoose

★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★★

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30–9:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month (except Monday, November 10) to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks led by Elliott Kutner. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last Skimmer are:

Our new members since the last <i>skimmer</i> are:
Bellmore Michelle Laskowski, Georgina McKee
Cedarhurst Teller Development Corp.
Douglaston Linda Esposito
East Meadow Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Alpert, Kathy Diamond,
Vera Maitinsky, Sonia Rabson
East Rockaway Gladys Chiaffitelli
Farmingdale Walter C. Barton, Erik Gustafson, Joyce
McArthur
Floral Park Karen Lester, Mary Weld Luhrs, Cynthia Perez
Franklin Square Amy Rodriguez
Freeport Dorothy J. Green, Edmund Haegele, Virginia
Terris
Garden City Iris Sackstein
Hempstead Mushtaq Chohan, Albert A. Jackson, B.
Millward
Hewlett Mildred Levine, Gael Shern
Hicksville E. Pound
Inwood Byungsook Yuh
Island Park G. Zimmer
Levittown Patricia Morrissey
Lido Beach Perry J. Bodnar
Long Beach Julie B. Baram, Maura V. Kuohn, Kenneth M.
Levine, Michael Putnam, Trina J. Stasiak
Lynbrook Fran Green, Mildred Murray
Massapequa Tom Cooney, Georgina Devoy, Richard F.
Heaning, Matty & Nicky La Gois, Joan
Rapczyk, Allaire Sheehy
Massapequa Park Dunkin' Donuts, J. Hillman
Merrick Marie Fitzgerald, John G. Karavolos, Mildred
Peterson, Peter & Missy Whelan
Plainview Naomi Fonseca, Sachin Kamath, Sylvia
Secunda, Tara Sheppard
Point Lookout Ellen Murray
Rockville Centre Susan A. Laustsen, William Wahlig, Deborah
Wynne
Seaford Taylor Ryan

Stewart Manor Rose Barber, Leonard Gallo, Shirley Jessen,
Carolyn D. Noble, ? Sawka, Henry C.
Schreier
Uniondale Patricia Normasi
Valley Stream Jose Castro, George A. Davson, Janet Leahy,
James Nunamacher
Wantagh E. Balashewitz, Charles Beers, Lloyd Harris,
Vasilis Kovoros, Jean Leib, Chuck Silveira
West Hempstead Carole Adkins, Leslie Concialdi, Edgar
Mendez, Lita Sollisch

Michael Sperling

The May-August issue of the *Skimmer* ran out of space, so I postponed my 18th annual thank-you column. I especially want to thank Bill Eichholz for picking up six issues from F&B Printers in Island Park last year and Therese Lucas for labeling all of the newsletters with me. Thanks also go to Wendy Murbach for helping with the labeling and dinner-flyer stuffing, and for printing the chapter-only labels; and to everyone who submitted articles, especially the prolific Joe Grupp.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sat., Sept. 27, 4–7 P.M.). Join us aboard 100-ft boat "Golden Sunshine" leaving from Pier 2 in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn for a 3-hour narrated tour of the bay during peak fall migration time. Learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of Jamaica Bay Refuge. Cost: \$45 incl. wine & cheese, fruit, drinks, snacks.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat., Nov. 15). Meet 10 A.M. at the aquarium entrance in Coney Island for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour. See sharks, penguins, sea otters, walrus, sea turtles, local & exotic fish, and Buzzy, the Electric Eel. Cost: \$25 (kids \$15).

FLORIDA EVERGLADES (Feb. 21–28, 2009). Visit the best wildlife areas of South Florida, incl. North & South Everglades, Big Cypress Preserve, Corkscrew Swamp Preserve, Ding Darling Refuge, Loxahatchee Refuge, Wakodahatchee Boardwalk, state parks, and more. Travel by van & see roseate spoonbill, bald eagle, purple gallinule, reddish egret, wood stork, Everglades kite, burrowing and barred owls, as well as American crocodile, lots of gators, butterflies, and maybe a bobcat or river otter. Cost: \$1,795 includes airfare, lodging, breakfasts & lunches, van, gas, park fees & guides.

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.

PAVING TRAIL VIEW STATE PARK

Back in the spring, an SSAS Research Committee survey by Joe Grupp and Joe Landesberg spotted a slew of markers on trees in Trail View State Park. We subsequently determined that the lightly used park, which is just north of Bethpage State Park and was created in 2002 along the former right-of-way of the Bethpage State Parkway up to Old Country Road, is included in plans for a 7.9-mile extension of the paved path that begins in Massapequa Preserve. Trail View currently has no pave-



ment; just narrow trails that cater to Greenbelt hikers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, etc. In its limited surveys of the area starting in 2005, our Research Committee discovered

that despite being about 400 to 500 feet wide, Trail View provides habitat for at least 83 species, including ones that nest in its rare old-field successional habitat. Their list includes three species on Audubon's Watchlist (Willow Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, and Blue-winged Warbler) and two on its Common Birds in Decline list (Field Sparrow and, yes, Common Grackle). Thanks to Huntington Audubon Society's Sharon Brody, who did Breeding Bird Atlas surveys in Trail View, we know of other species that nest there, including Black-billed Cuckoo.

After a series of e-mails with New York State Parks' personnel on Long Island and in Albany failed to make headway, Audubon NY's executive director, Al Caccese, intervened on our behalf, resulting in a useful meeting in July. The existing proposal for a ten-foot wide bike path provides separate trails for hiking and mountain biking, effectively fragmenting the park while adding 1-1/2 miles of trail. A second meeting, this time including NYS Department of Transportation management personnel because we learned that they have primary responsibility for park pavement decisions, is scheduled for mid-August.

JOIN THE MEADOWBROOK BIOBLITZ

SSAS board members Betsy Gulotta (the conservation project manager for Friends of Hempstead Plains) and George Peters (our representative on Nassau County's Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee) are involved in the committee that is organizing the Meadowbrook BioBlitz. The following is from a press release:

A BioBlitz involves a comprehensive 24-hour inventory of all the living organisms in a given area, covering the plants and wildlife. The BioBlitz will take place on **September 19 & 20** along a 7-1/2-mile stretch of the Meadowbrook Parkway corridor, running from the Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College to the wetlands by Merrick-Freeport Bay. The 24-hour program is expected to draw hundreds of volunteers, ranging from biologists and environmentalists to students and residents.

The corridor contains a mix of state, county, Town of Hempstead, and Village of Freeport public lands, and consists of spring-fed streams, ponds, and forest. In total, there are 252 acres of freshwater wetlands, with red maple swamps dominating. The area plays a significant role in the county's storm-water management plan, supporting more than 100 storm-water outflow pipes that discharge directly into the Meadow Brook.

As the various governmental entities work in concert to build a plan for the corridor's future, including the possibility of a lengthy nature trail [endorsed by SSAS and awaiting long-delayed state approval], the BioBlitz is designed to enhance the public understanding of the area's ecology.

For details, visit www.meadowbrookbioblitz.org, where you can register and your editor found the following:

When will volunteer orientation take place? Orientation will be held at Hofstra University's Monroe Hall at 6:30 P.M. on Friday, Sept. 19. Teams will be organized at orientation to work in two-hour shifts. Teams will leave from there to cover the designated areas or come back to volunteer on Saturday.

How are volunteers organized? During orientation, volunteers will be grouped with scientists and guides according to their interests (for example, bird interests with bird scientist). Teams will leave from there to cover the designated areas or come back to volunteer on Saturday.

How much time do I have to volunteer for? Minimally volunteer for a two-hour shift. You can volunteer for as many shifts as you like over the 24-hr period.

Why is half of the BioBlitz during the night? Most animals are nocturnal and only come out at night. Possums (pictured), amphibians, and reptiles are some examples.

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GREENING OF LONG ISLAND DONATION

Therese Lucas

It was with a feeling of great pleasure and satisfaction that South Shore Audubon Society was able to donate native plantings to Lido Nature Preserve through our Greening of Long Island program. Thanks to John Zarudsky, Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways biologist, for his assistance, enabling planting of the most appropriate species for that location. This preserve is great for birding and walking, and brings a feeling of complete relaxation when you're there. Reward yourself with a visit if you have not already done so.

SSAS Post Office Statement — South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

WHAT TYPE ARE YOU, MR. FALCON?

Jonathan Staller

It was a sudden trip. It wasn't planned; funerals never are. Here I was when I heard the news of a passing on my wife's side of the family. In three days I'm going to Trinidad! Where are my birder's guide and my field notes? I had them packed in a box, on the bottom of many other boxes I'm sure, in my storage locker. Like I said before, not a planned trip. Well, I never did take that book, but I did grab my binoculars and with my family by my side, we went to Trinidad.

We arrived on the Saturday afternoon before Easter. My sister-in-law Leela and her three sons met us at the airport. It was Leela's husband Dean who passed on. Dean walked Sarah down the aisle at our wedding. Leela looked good; everyone looked good. Everyone was in good spirits, and they told us to relax and have fun. That's exactly what we did; the Stallers are on vacation.

After unpacking, Leela told us that they have prayer services at the house around 7 P.M. every night for 11 days. A pundit (Hindu rabbi) would play his organ, sitting Indianstyle. I wonder if that's how Indian-style sitting got its name? Anyway, his band would consist of a drum (tabla) player and a bell player whose bell looks like a 3-ft long iron rod. A smaller rod would be used to strike it, creating a ding-ding sound. Freshly made snacks were served afterward. I helped serve and that's when I encountered my first new bird of the trip. Too bad I didn't have my birders' guide. I couldn't identify the falcon I was looking at!

The day hours of our trip were full from morning until dusk. We visited family every day and my daughter got to meet her cousins. We went swimming in the ocean and went to the zoo; never a dull moment. When we went out with my nephew-in-law Ashook, it was really special. Ashook is a captain in the Trinidadian defense forces and many have much respect for him. Our drivers were our bodyguards!

I did manage to bird-watch though. At first I saw the blue ones that I've seen before. Then the red ones and then the green ones. That's a tanager; I've seen it before. Fourth time I'm in Trinidad and I should know that one by now! It was so difficult watching and not being able to identify anything. Oh, there it is again, the falcon. It flew at dusk with the bats. Lots of mosquitos, so lots of bats. The falcon flew like a nighthawk, making oval flight paths, searching for prey.

Ashook said he'd take me to Mt. St. Benedict. It's the largest Benedictine establishment in the Caribbean and home to the famous Pax Guest House. I've been there before with my other nephew-in-law, Errol; he loves birdwatching and owns 14 little birds that he calls robins. We arrived there at 7 A.M. There we saw the bluish birds and a mockingbird, BUT "That's a Palm Tanager. The other bird is called a Tropical Mockingbird." Yes, but, who said that? Mr. Gerald Ramsawak, the manager of the Pax Guest House for 10 years, would be our personal guide. He designed and planted all the gardens to attract the optimum amount of birds possible. Each morning he put chopped mangos, papayas, bananas, and other native fruits on platform trays that attracted Bare-eyed Thrush, Yellow Oriole, Great Kiskadee, and Bananaquits on the ground floors.

The cottage itself had rooms to stay overnight in and a small dining room. At the end of each hall there was a patio where you can witness the bird activity from the treetops to the ground level. Upstairs hung many hummingbird feeders, which attracted numerous delicate yet so fascinating birds. The males looked like flying gems when the sunlight shined on the breast feathers. To name a few that I liked were the Green Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, and the Blue-tailed Emerald.

Being built on a side of a mountain, the guest house is a great spot to see birds of prey. I saw a Gray-headed Kite, a Zone-tailed Hawk (which looks just like a Turkey Vulture but smaller), and a Short-tailed Hawk. Both Black and Turkey Vultures were present. There were Orange-winged Parrots flying and chattering from mountain to mountain. I also got to see rare birds such as the Trinidad Euphonia, Long-billed Gnatwren, Streaked Flycatcher, Barred Antshrike, and Buff-throated Woodcreeper.

After two hours of bird-watching, we were served breakfast and I got to ask Gerald about other birds I'd seen on this trip that I couldn't identify. He helped me with all of them, including the Bat Falcon; the falcon feeds on the bats themselves, not the mosquitos after all.

I'm glad I went on vacation. My Trinidad bird list increased and my family got to see my other family. We'll miss you, brother-in-law.

FLEA MARKET THANKS

Maureen Rube

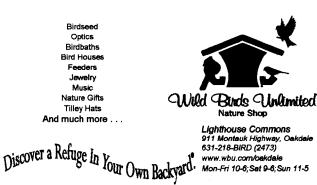
Thank you to all who helped to make our flea market such a success last May. We raised \$617.55 for scholar-ships to the environmental day camp program at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay.

As happened last year, we had a huge outpouring of various donations from members and their friends. For their generosity, I would like to thank Gloria Berkowitz, Laura Berkowitz, Carolyn and Greg Carroll, Gloria and Harold Cohen, Muriel Cook, Pam Goldman, Vicki and Evan Goldstein, Joe and Dolores Grupp, Marilyn Hametz, Kim Huhn, Sheila Kiefer, Enid Klein, Joe and Lucy Landesberg, Therese Lucas, Margaret Luciani, Andrea Mc?, Jeannette Miller, Theresa Perez, Marianne and George Peters, Sandy and Richie Ponzini, Cindy Priest, Doreen Remsen, Mary Jane Russell, Richard Ryder, Irene and Herbert Schwartz, Ed Sperling, Mike Sperling, and Pearl and Seymour Weinstein.

All of the wonderful donations needed to be picked up and delivered, priced, displayed, sold, and, at the end, disposed of. This mammoth job was made much easier by the help of many members to whom I am very grateful. They include Carolyn and Greg Carroll, Rich Kopsco, Joe Landesberg, Therese Lucas, Marianne and George Peters, Paul Rube, Ed Sperling, Mike Sperling, Andrea Youngfert, and Nancy and Bill Youngfert.

Finally, the Youngferts again graciously provided their home and driveway for our flea market site. In addition to doing all of the above jobs, they helped in many unseen ways, such as securing storage space, setting up protective tarps, assembling display tables, arranging publicity, and even making coffee. Their behind-the-scene work allowed the day to go smoothly and successfully. So, particular thanks and kudos to Nancy and Bill for their many contributions to a job well done!

Editor's note: If we left out or muffed your name (sorry, Andrea M.), please send an e-mail to mssperling @optonline.net and we'll thank you in the next Skimmer. Thanks to all of you, including Maureen!





Elliatt 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 ssaudubon.org.

Aug. 24	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)*	
Aug. 31	Labor Day Weekend — No Walk	
Sept. 7	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge	
Sept. 14	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve	
Sept. 21	Marine Nature Study Area (Oceanside)†	
Sept. 28	Massapequa Preserve*	
Oct. 5	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge	
Oct. 12	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve	
Oct. 19	Massapequa Preserve*	
Oct. 26	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge	
40		

*See next page regarding possible detours in Massapequa Preserve.

†Directions to MNSA: From Sunrise Highway, take Long Beach Rd. south for about two miles; turn left on Waukena Ave.; turn right on Park Ave. (there's a traffic light and a Marine Nature Study Area sign); and follow the signs for the last few blocks (to Golf Dr. and Slice Dr.).

JOIN THE 2 I ST ANNUAL NEW YORK BEACH CLEANUP

On **September 20**, plan to be at an ocean beach, river, sound, stream, wetland, or lake on the third Saturday in September to join a cleanup team and participate in the New York Beach Cleanup, organized annually by the



American Littoral Society as part of the International Coastal Cleanup — a worldwide effort of The Ocean Conservancy to document and remove marine debris. Litter is not only unsightly; it poses threats to

humans and wildlife. Floating debris is a menace to navigation, fouling propellers and blocking intake valves. Birds become entangled in discarded fishing line and 6-pack ring holders; marine mammals ingest plastics that can obstruct their intestinal tracts.

In the 2007 beach cleanup, over 9,000 volunteers documented and removed over 143,000 pounds of debris from 285 sites across New York. This included 56,756 beverage containers and 48,173 cigarette butts.

In September, cleanup sites "at a beach near you" will be listed on the American Littoral Society's website, www.alsnyc.org. You can also call the Beach Cleanup Hotline, (800) 449-0790, for information. For assistance in forming a cleanup team of your own, contact Beach Cleanup Coordinator Barbara Cohen at alsbeach@aol.com or (718) 471-2166.

TR SANCTUARY BUS CHAPERONE WANTED

In her President's Message, Wendy included our TR Sanctuary nature camp scholarship program as a way for you to help our all-volunteer chapter. According to organizer Mary Jane Russell, we have an immediate opportunity available for **Thursday**, **August 28** from 7:45 A.M. until about 3 P.M. and could use some backup volunteers for August 25–27. The "job" is to be one of two chaperones for the eleven expected young campers we will be busing from Oceanside to Oyster Bay. To volunteer, call Marilyn Hametz at 799-7189.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN MASSAPEOUA PRESERVE

Editor's note: We've mentioned the Massapequa Preserve Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration Project in these pages since 2003, and it's finally expected to begin as this newsletter is being printed. We heard a while ago that construction was going to start at the north end and therefore wouldn't affect our bird walks for many months, but just to be sure, we suggest that you watch SSAS's e-mail list for updates and/or check www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Parks. As of now, there's a press release from County Executive Suozzi posted that explains the project, which is the result of a mandate that was issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency when sewers were approved for the surrounding neighborhoods. Here's the press release...

In early August 2008, the Department of Public Works will undertake a major stream corridor enhancement project within the 423-acre Massapequa Preserve. This project has several components aimed at restoring, enhancing, and protecting one of the most valuable freshwater wetland habitats remaining in Nassau County. The major components of the project include:

- Augmenting the Massapequa Creek stream flow with 800 gallons per minute of water that will be withdrawn from the decommissioned Brooklyn Water Works infiltration gallery piping located below ground near part of the preserve by Sunrise Highway. The withdrawn water will be pumped northward in a new pipeline buried below the bike path (which will be completely replaced) and discharged into the stream channel at several locations just south of Linden Street. The aim of augmenting the flow is twofold: to allow the stream to flow more consistently during dry weather, and to provide colder water to the stream in an effort to provide habitat for cool-water fish species (trout).
- Dredging/berming portions of two ponds to segregate the stream flow from the storm flow, thereby enhancing the aesthetic and ecological values of the ponds.
- Conducting stream channel improvements to prevent erosion and loss of wetland vegetation while restoring its suitability as a trout habitat. The improvements consist of

some sediment removal from the channel, stream bank reinforcement, and protection using vegetative erosion control techniques and plantings. Other techniques such as rock weirs and stream diversions will create fish habitat as recommended by Trout Unlimited.

- Improving the Massapequa Reservoir through the partial dredging of a deep channel near the eastern wing to enhance flow and water temperature.
- Irrigating a 12-acre red maple swamp with diverted storm-water runoff from the newly segregated ponds. These wetland areas are in need of additional irrigation if they are to remain viable as a wetland habitat.
- Providing storm-water treatment at various locations throughout the watershed, to prevent floatable trash and debris from entering the stream. These devices will filter suspended solids, nutrients, metals, oil, and grease, as well as pathogens.
- Providing educational and recreational improvements through signage, trail and path markers, benches, and walkways.

The size and scope of the project will necessarily involve some disruption within the Massapequa Preserve.



Accordingly, the Nassau County Department of Public Works; the Nassau County Department of

Parks, Recreation and Museums; the Nassau County Office of Public Safety; Bove Industries (the contractor); the Village of Massapequa Park; and local County legislators will coordinate their efforts to alert surrounding residents and preserve visitors about anticipated construction activities, path closures, and path detours. In addition to the updates provided on the County website, there will also be signs posted in the preserve.

BACKYARD SURVEY DATA NEEDED!

Joe Grupp

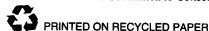
For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you make only very few.

Simply record the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Survey sheets are available at SSAS events and at ssaudubon.org or you can create your own.

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale, NY 11553 or e-mail Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com.

South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Americans Committed to Conservation



DATED MATERIAL



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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
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