

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-AUGUST 2014

#### **NEXT MEETING**

John Gaglione

DATE:

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

TIME:

7:30 P.M.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

TOPIC:

Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air

For our last monthly meeting until September, after the coffee break we'll be showing a spectacular documentary that was produced in 2010 by Thirteen as part of the long-running PBS Nature series.

Hummingbirds are the smallest warm-blooded creatures on the planet. With wings that beat up to 200 times every second, they are among nature's most accomplished athletes, the only birds able to hover, fly backwards, and even fly upside down. Because they live their lives in fast forward, much of their fascinating world is typically lost to human perception. But using cameras able to capture over 500 images a second, the hummingbirds' magical world can finally be seen and appreciated. Amazing footage shows these little powerhouses are far more than delicate nectar gatherers—they are also deadly predators. These tiny marvels dazzle and delight bird-watchers all over the world, and this program reveals their stunning abilities as they have never been seen before.

**Pre-Meeting Book Discussion.** Arrive a half-hour early to participate in a discussion led by R. U. Abyrdar II (aka Paul Stessel) of the book that he reviewed in the previous *Skimmer.* This month's book is *Return of the Osprey: A Season of Flight and Wonder* by David Gessner.

**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 gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTSI

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Service, Knowledge, and Enjoyment

Jim Brown

Happy month of May — may we all enjoy this springtime of warblers and other migrants! Spring cleaning is also in the air!

This month's column is, alas, my last President's Message. I have been South Shore Audubon's president for the past three years, elected three times for three one-year terms. Our bylaws specify that my tenure must come to an end, and so it will, following the inauguration of new officers at our June annual dinner. It has been an enjoyable and exciting time for me. My job has been made especially gratifying because of all the superb work accomplished by an actively engaged board and membership. The vitality of an Audubon chapter depends on the work of volunteers. The SSAS board has been truly prodigious in its zeal in carrying out its many activities. Members throughout our area have also been exceedingly active — attending meetings, writing letters, engaging in bird surveys, enjoying programs, and joining our many notable bird walks. Our chapter, representing approximately 1,700 households on the South Shore of Nassau County, is a dynamic group of people with a deep concern for both birds and the environment, and I am proud to have been able to serve you all as president these past few years.

Even though I will be leaving my present position in June, I am not wistful about the change. I look forward to continuing to serve the South Shore Audubon Society as conservation committee chairperson, something I have been doing all along. I will continue to enjoy updating the board and the entire membership of the chapter on the important environmental issues that confront us. Look for these conservation updates in future issues of the *Skimmer!* 

In this column I earlier mentioned warblers and spring cleaning. On Saturday, May 3, South Shore Audubon is supporting two different activities on the same day at roughly the same time. One event is a trip to Central Park to view and study warblers; the other is participation in an environmental cleanup at Hempstead Lake State Park, an event that is a celebration of I Love My Park Day (both events are discussed in more detail in other parts of this *Skimmer*). SSAS members are urged to attend either event, depending on each individual's preference.

The two events illustrate to me how our chapter supports activities that offer the ability of someone to serve the environment, gain knowledge, and have fun. The trip to Central Park offers us the chance to greatly improve our knowledge of warblers and warbler identification — Chris Cooper is a real expert birder and teacher — and the cleanup at Hempstead Lake offers us the chance to directly perform service for the environment by picking up debris around Hempstead Lake State Park, an Important Bird Area (and home to eagles!) in our backyard. The Central Park trip may accentuate gaining new knowledge and the cleanup at Hempstead Lake State Park may emphasize service or stewardship, but both events will no doubt be enjoyable for the participants - real, unadulterated fun! Camaraderie and enjoyment are important to much of what we do, whether learning about birds or whether we are helping a state park with a cleanup.

These values — gaining knowledge, being of service to the environment, and enjoying shared activities with Audubon members and friends — have greatly enriched my life these past few years, and I deeply appreciate it all!



HORSESHOE CRABS AND SHOREBIRDS AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE (Sat., May 17, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at refuge center and carpool to Broad Channel beach site to see the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crab and shorebirds feeding on their eggs. Contact Don to reserve.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY CRUISE (Sat., May 17, 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.). Join naturalists Don Riepe and Mickey Cohen on a special 3-hour cruise into backwater marshes of the bay. Learn about the history & ecology of the bay and see nesting peregrine falcon, osprey & many other bird species. Cost: \$55 incl. narrated tour, wine & cheese, drinks, fruit, snacks.

**MONTAUK WEEKEND** (June 6–8). Cost: \$385 includes 2 nights at Manor House, 4 meals plus wine & cheese reception, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and star watch.Leaders: Mike Bottini, Mickey Maxwell Cohen & Don Riepe.

CAPE ANN WHALE WATCH (August 14–17). Spend three nights in historic Gloucester, MA. Cost: \$395 per person includes lodging (double occ.), half-day whale watching trip, lobster/seafood dinner, Essex River marsh cruise, canoeing on Ipswich River, guided hike at nearby state park, and visit to Parker River Wildlife Refuge. With NYC Audubon.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 474-0896, donriepe@gmail.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.littoralsociety.org.



Steve Schellenger & Joe Landesberg

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Steve (who is retiring as our walk leader in June) at 987-8103 or Joe at 467-9498. Directions and lists of what we've seen may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Apr. 27	Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside	
May 4	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern	
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)	
May 11	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner	
May 18	ay 18 Alley Pond Park (76th Ave. parking lot)	
May 25	Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk	
June 1	Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside	
June 8	Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)	
	Summer Break	
Aug. 17	Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)	
Aug. 24	Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside	
Aug. 31	g. 31 Labor Day Weekend — No Walk	
Sep. 7	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve	
<b>*****</b>	<b>0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0</b>	
	RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070	
<b>*****</b>	<b>0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0</b>	

#### INTERESTED IN OUR BIRDATHON?

This year, SSAS is scheduled to conduct its 27th annual Birdathon from **Friday**, **May 9** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday**, **May 10** at 5:00 P.M. SSAS raises funds through Birdathons by having members get cash pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its peak. Birding expertise and big pledges are not necessary; anyone can join the SSAS team locally for all or part of the time, sponsor themselves, and have fun while helping us find species, or you can do your own Birdathon anywhere.

We Need to Hear from You. The status of the neverbefore-canceled SSAS Birdathon is questionable, so we haven't included the usual team itinerary of six locations, at which we normally record over 100 species. A decision will be made based on how many of the regulars are available (some already have extenuating circumstances) and how many other members let us know they would like to participate. Please call Jim Remsen, our Birdathon chairperson, at 631-957-0949 to sign up!

### SWS Garage Door Service Co.

43 Mackey Ave. Port Washington, NY 11050

(516) 627-0600

Fax (516) 627-8504 SWSGARAGEDOORS@GMAIL.COM

Steven W. Schellenger

Licensed and Insured

#### **BOOKS FOR BIRDERS**

R. U. Abyrdar II

Since I've been reviewing books that aim to make us better birders for the last few months, for this month, the last review until after our summer break, I've decided to review an adventure story, To See Every Bird on Earth: a Father, a Son, and a Lifelong Obsession, by Dan Koeppel. It is a fascinating book about one of the most prolific "Big Listers" of all time, with over 7,000 bird species from around the world!

Everyone has his or her own addiction, be it coffee, cigarettes, or bird-watching. Bird-watching was the drug of choice for Richard Koeppel, Dan's father. The author writes affectionately but honestly about his dad. Attempting the ultimate bird-watcher's achievement is a lifetime's work. The book addresses a deep-seated desire in all of us to relate to nature in an intimate way. This is a candid book about a man who wanted to become an ornithologist but instead listened to his parents and became a doctor.

This book offers an intimate view of a community obsessed with the thrill of the chase, or the "twitch" if you



prefer. It artfully weaves a story of biography, autobiography, and ahistory of birding in America. It was a good read and a pleasure to review. It is a wonderful story, interwoven with a world of wonderful birds. As you read you will be amazed at the

intricate relationship between a father and his son; it is a very candid story! This book can be enjoyed by nonbirders as well. What could possibly drive a man (or woman) to travel to over 50 countries and spend a fortune in order to count birds? Can you count to 7,450? The author's father became a competitive birder — one of about ten people to see this many birds. Can you say Phoebe Snetsinger [whose biography was reviewed by R. U. eleven issues ago]? Dan's father's "spark" bird was a Brown Thrasher. This set him off on his odyssey to see "every bird on earth."

When Dan stuck to his father's birding activities, I enjoyed the book — but too often he overindulged in exposing skeletons from his family's closet. He includes interesting accounts of top-ranking Big Listers. These are not easy to find, and this book is one of the few places to read about them. My question is, "will this book inspire us all to see every bird on earth?" I certainly hope not! Richard's "chase" lasted for over 25 years. Wow! An obsession like this is not simply a chase but, more likely, a crusade. A crusade like this does come at the expense of all else. The family and many relationships suffer greatly, all for the sake of a "check" in a notebook.

The author is a renowned nature, outdoors, and adventure writer in his own right. Obviously, his reasons for writing this book go far beyond his other credentials. His father is the focus of this most enjoyable book — a certified Big Lister. As the author says: "It was only when I began to read between the seemingly dry and formal

lines of the tally itself that I realized what such a lifetime of counting contains: the desire to find one's own place in creation, pursued with a single-mindedness that so far has evolved only in humans. Seeing every bird on earth is a way of seeing everything, of attempting to know everything. Such attempts mark human history. The story told here is about finding a way into that seduction — and finding a way back." The psychology of becoming a Big Lister is carefully portrayed in this very readable book. So read it and let it be food for thought for all of us. Have a great summer! See you all in September.

# SSAS'S 43RD ANNUAL DINNER

Join us for an evening of good food and good company. Our gathering will be at Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead on **Tuesday**, **June 10**. The cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 P.M. As usual, awards will be presented and raffle drawings will occur. Your dinner registration form is inserted in this newsletter. Join us!

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 TO DO WITH DISPLACED YOUNG WILDLIFE

Most young wildlife that you come across are not orphaned. The parents are temporarily away finding food or are staying away to avoid attracting predators and will later return. If you are concerned that a bird or animal may be orphaned, watch from a distance for a while to see if the parents return. If you have to chase it, it doesn't need your help!

A nestling songbird is only partially feathered and cannot yet run, hop, or move about easily. It should be returned to the nest. If you can't find or reach the nest, make one from a berry box or strainer (something with drainage), line it with grasses, and secure it up in a tree close to where you found the bird. The parents will

continue to feed it.

If you are certain a young songbird is orphaned, leave a message for Volunteers for Wildlife at 674-0982 for assis-

message for Volunteers for Wildlife at 674-0982 for assistance and follow the emergency instructions at www.volunteersforwildlife.org.

#### NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Bushtits – A Consolation Prize

Joe Grupp

We were in the Big Sur area of coastal California on a sunny but slightly chilly day. We were drawn there hoping to spot an endangered species, the California Condor (pictured), riding the updrafts where the Pacific Ocean meets the steeply rising highlands of our continent.

Research prior to our arrival in California, and knowledge gained after, suggested that observing the skies from the flagpole at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park would offer a good chance of spotting one. I was dubious about our chances as we approached the park, as only a very few Turkey Vultures or other soaring birds were

occasionally seen gliding on the rising air currents.

Near and around the flagpole, our view was somewhat restricted by the height of land behind us that wrapped around in a U-shaped fashion, and by the vegetation on the land that sloped more gently towards the Pacific Ocean in front of us, limiting our line of sight. I wondered why this spot might be a recommended spot for a chance to see a Condor until two Turkey Vultures drifted over our heads so close to us that their every detail could be seen with the naked eye. Our observation spot was a busy place, as cars came and went and a flow of people followed a trail out towards the Pacific as others came back to their cars. A talk with a park employee about Condors also informed us that the trail, that so many were walking, led to a view of a waterfall and then to an overlook over the Pacific and up the coast.

Eventually giving up our wait for a Condor, we walked the mile-plus trail, where the scenery at times was spectacular. After a time, we began to catch sight of McWay Falls, as it launched out from a wooded vee, in a jumbled

cliff face, into space. Our view was above and toward the side of the stream of water that fell a hundred feet or more while forming a graceful arc, landing in the soft sand near where the surf of the sea met the sandy shore. One to three Western Gulls (pictured) came and went, walking near where the falling water struck

the sand, apparently looking for whatever bits of food fell with the water. Western Gulls look similar to our Great Black-backed Gull, but are smaller and are of a lighter black color.

We were heading back from the overlook and were in the area where we could again view the falls when a small bird shot across the trail into the shrubby, steeply rising land, followed by another and another; eight to ten birds in a loose, somewhat scattered flock disappeared into the shrubs one by one. Immediately by the action of the flock and from some research I did before our trip, I was all but sure that I knew the species. The birds cooperated with my

attempt to confirm their identification, as one and then another popped up to perch in the open before descending again into the shrubbery. They were dull gray, lighter underneath, with a slightly brown tinge on the heads and somewhat long tails. Just as I expected, they were Bushtits, a widely distributed western bird. They bounced around deep in the shrubs and out again, and then just as they came in one would leave, then another followed, and then another, etc.

They are an interesting species beyond the almost unique way they travel in flocks. They are known to huddle together on cold nights and to build a hanging nest, as much as one foot long, with an entrance on the side near the top, among other traits. It would have been nice to have had a chance to observe some of those interesting traits but just as they moved on, we had to also.

We spent more than an hour at an overlook, also unsuccessfully trying to find a soaring Condor which would have been the grand prize of our trip. Even considering that there are only about 237 California Condors in the wild, not finding one was a disappointment. Bushtits had to serve as a consolation prize, which was not too shabby, especially as I had never seen one before.

#### **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.

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.

#### **★★ 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 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. 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:
Atlantic Beach Caroline Bishop
Bethpage Ralph Cuomo
East Meadow Laurie Greenberg, Louis Marchesi,
Alevtina Stehnach
Farmingdale Allison Cook, Robert Wighton
Floral Park Melanie Decarli
Freeport Doreen Borchers
Garden City Richard Ende, Matthew Lynch
Hempstead Margaret Wilton
Hicksville Regina Grippo
Levittown Elena Gnezda
Long Beach Lawrence Kalvar, John Repp
Massapequa Samantha Busuttil
Plainview Alyssa Miale
Rockville Centre C. Carlsen, Richard Felix, Andrea Spata
Seaford Phil Defendini
Uniondale Chima Ogu
Wantagh Annette Caso, Maureen Genna, Mary Socha
West Hempstead Paul Midgette
Westbury George & Elba Gomez
$\diamond\!$
NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+·+

Phone: (516) 931-1445 Fax: (516) 931-1467 E-Mail: lgk1cpa@aol.com

#### LEONARD G. KONSKER

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Konsker and Company, LTD 550 W. Old Country Rd., Suite 101 Hicksville, New York 11801

#### I LOVE MY PARK DAY AT HEMPSTEAD LAKE

Jim Brown

Join members of South Shore Audubon Society and other concerned Long Islanders in a cleanup at Hempstead Lake State Park on **Saturday, May 3**. Register online or register in person the day of the cleanup. We had a wonderful time last year, and this year should be just as much fun! Hempstead Lake State Park, home of Bald Eagles, is an Important Bird Area of great interest to our chapter. Come out for the cleanup and celebrate New York State Parks on I Love My Park Day! Details are as follows:

I Love My Park Day is an exciting statewide event to improve and enhance New York's parks and historic sites, and bring visibility to the entire park system and its needs. This year's project at Hempstead Lake State Park will take place from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. and will include the cleanup of the Northwest Pond shoreline, Northeast Pond shoreline, as well as trail cleanup. All ages are welcome to participate, and those interested should meet at the Eagle Avenue field, which is just north of Southern State Parkway, Exit 18 (no parking fee). Please bring garden gloves, water, and snacks.

You can register at https://ptny.wufoo.com/forms/i-love-my-park-day-volunteer-registration/. With any questions, please call 766-1029. See more info at http://www.nysparks.com/events/event.aspx?e=31-10041.0.

## STATUS OF THE BIRD FEEDING ORDINANCE

Michael Sperling

In the March issue of the *Skimmer*, I followed up a February article by writing that "I will post the ordinance on our Facebook page and e-mail it to our Yahoo Group when it is available." Some of you may have noticed that it is yet to be posted and that, other than adding a note about the existence of the newly approved ordinance to the SSAS Backyard Bird Survey form, it wasn't mentioned in the April issue. Here's an update.

After I finally obtained a copy of the ordinance and it was discussed by SSAS's board, we requested a meeting with the Town of Hempstead's supervisor regarding the wording that was approved and its apparent contradiction with the Town's news release regarding its purpose. I was one of four SSAS representatives at a March 27 meeting with the Town attorney who wrote the ordinance, and with representatives from the Buildings Department (which is responsible for enforcement) and the Supervisor's office. They have agreed to revise the ordinance and are awaiting exact changes from SSAS.

Enforcement of the ordinance, we were told, will be 100% driven by complaints from neighbors. Because what we've read in the current ordinance appears to us to be far more restrictive than what has been publicized to date, we have decided to avoid advertising its details until changes are made.

#### **OUR FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK**

On Saturday, May 3, SSAS is planning to be in Central Park for our annual (weather permitting) early May morning bird walk. As usual, Chris Cooper (who was featured two years ago in HBO's documentary, "Birders: The Central Park Effect," and traces his birding roots to SSAS) has volunteered to lead us through the twisting, hilly maze of the Ramble and adjoining areas of the park. In previous years, we've recorded 45 to 70-plus species in under three hours (except 31 last year, with only 6 warbler species).

The cost of the walk is \$5, which is a tax-deductible donation to SSAS (refundable if we rain out or you cancel in advance). Please send your check payable to South Shore Audubon Society, along with your phone number and e-mail address, to Joanne Del Prete, 20 Ceil Pl., Bethpage, 11714-4503 NY (phone 433-0739. jdelprete47@optonline.net).

A group of us will be aboard the local Babylon line train that is due in Penn Station at 8:12; you can look for Joanne on the platform in Massapequa at 7:13 (as of now, only the eastern half of the station is open, due to ongoing major renovations). Other familiar faces plan to board in Bellmore at 7:21 and Rockville Centre at 7:33. We aim to depart from Penn's LIRR waiting room at 8:30 to meet Chris at Belvedere Castle at around 9:15. Please buy a MetroCard for the subway. You can bring lunch or buy it in the park, or head back home after the walk if you prefer. Joanne's cell (476-3761) will be on that day only. Join us!

#### **BAY PARK OUTFALL PIPE**

Editor's note: On March 14, Newsday published an edited version of a letter that was submitted by Jim Brown a week earlier on behalf of SSAS. Here's the original letter, which didn't fit in last month's Skimmer.

To the Editor: Newsday has covered in detail the problems faced by the Bay Park sewage treatment plant, long a source of pollution for the western bays of Long Island



and which was additionally damaged by Hurricane Sandy ("Send our treated sewage out to sea," Op. Ed. by Adrienne Esposito and Carl LoBue, 1/20/14, and "Lawmakers," activists call on funding for ocean outfall pipe," by Robert Brodsky, 1/28/14). Re-

cently, in an editorial titled "Grab this chance for ocean pipe," 2/24/14, Newsday itself has taken a position in favor of building an outflow pipe into the ocean.

It is indeed necessary that the problems to our environment related to the Bay Park sewage plant be solved, for no one can deny that the pollution released by the plant damages our bays. Proper functioning of the facility is crucial in that more than 50 million gallons of treated sewage created by roughly a half-million Long Islanders daily are released from the plant into our western bays. It is crucial that money be provided to repair this facility.

However, obtaining additional funds and building an ocean outflow pipe might not be the best solution to this important environmental issue.

Is the solution to pollution really dilution? Before we rush to the ocean, this and many other questions need to be considered. An outflow pipe will transfer treated sewage directly to the ocean, which is also vulnerable to additional pollution and excessive nitrogen loadings.

The New York Bight may itself be subject to harmful algal blooms and an increase of nuisance species such as stinging jellyfish. Chlorine and pharmaceutical products, not completely removed from the sewage, will adversely affect marine life. In addition to the environmental harm. the pollution from the pipe could prohibit recreational use of our coastal waters. Beaches might be closed.

If an ocean outflow pipe is added to the Bay Park infrastructure, millions of gallons of treated freshwater will bypass the bays and flow directly into the ocean. Are the impacts known of moving an outfall pipe, which is a dependable source of fresh water, from the bay to the ocean? There is some evidence, for example, that the ecology of Barnegat Bay in Ocean County, NJ may have been adversely affected by the rerouting of sewage outfalls from the bay to the ocean. Before hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on an ocean outflow pipe here in Nassau County, alternatives should be studied and discussed. Land application of treated wastewater might be a solution to our sewage disposal at Bay Park. It should be considered as a possible alternative. The impact of any outflow pipe on the marine and coastal environments should also be studied in detail before approving it. Bay Park should be repaired and upgraded, but the repairs and upgrades should provide a permanent solution to the problem, not just push the problem out to sea.

#### **\*** NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2014-2015 BOARD

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 13, officers and directors will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates: Betty Borowsky, president; Paul Stessel, vice president; Joe Landesberg, treasurer; Arlene Rawls, recording secretary; Therese Lucas, corresponding secretary; and Stacy & Kurt Meyerheinrich, directors (for threeyear terms).

Bylaws Vote. The proposed revisions to SSAS's bylaws that were detailed in last month's Skimmer will be voted on by members attending our May 13 meeting.

Directors & Officers Insurance. In accordance with state law, this paragraph informs our members prior to the election that SSAS obtained D&O insurance for its board at an annual cost of \$575 via a one-year policy from Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company that was renewed on October 18, 2013.

#### PLANTINGS FOR OUR BIRDS

Michael Sperling

SSAS's Paul Stessel recently created a book list for distribution at presentations he's done, entitled "Books That Will Take You to the Next Step: Create a Backyard Birdscape — Where the Avian Elite Will Come to Meet and Eat!" Over a decade ago, I produced an SSAS handout that included a list of the plants that were the most frequently recommended in publications I had accumulated, with an emphasis on Long Island natives (but not necessarily plants suitable for backyard soil). The following is taken from both handouts (the first nine books are from Paul's list), with a few additions from my bookshelves. As Paul wrote, you should "add your own choices!" too.

The old handout began as follows: "It's spring, and time to plan your landscape or naturescape. How can you restore and enhance what nature once put in your yard? Focus on your own backyard to help give plants and wildlife a fighting chance. It is in vogue to go native. Native species are better adapted to local soils and climates. Natives require less water, fertilizer, and pest control. Let plants grow naturally and create a controlled untidiness in your naturescape. Plant trees and shrubs that



offer food and protection for birds. Birds need a constant and varied food source, so plant a variety of early and late blooming flowering plants for a steady food supply.

The plants also attract insects for spring and fall migrants to feed on. Remember to plant in groups for best food production, protection, and graceful design."

#### Recommended Books

- Gardening for the Birds: How to Create a Bird-Friendly Backyard by George Adams (2013; update of his Birdscaping Your Garden from 1998)
- National Geographic Backyard Guide to the Birds of North America by Jonathan Alderfer and Paul Hess (2011)
- Gardening for Birds & Butterflies by Birds & Blooms (2012)
- Birds in Your Backyard: A Bird-Lover's Guide to Creating a Garden Sanctuary by Robert Dolezal and Birds & Blooms (2004)
- Backyard Birding in the Northeast United States by Elmer Waldemar Eriksson (2002)
- Garden Secrets for Attracting Birds: A Bird-by-Bird Guide to Plants by Rachael Lanicci (2010)
- Backyards Are for the Birds by Edward R. Ricciuti (1998)
- Northeastern Birds: Backyard Guide by Bill Thompson III and BirdWatcher's Digest (2013)
- Backyard Birding: Using Natural Gardening to Attract Birds by Julie Zickefoose and BirdWatcher's Digest (2011)
- The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds by Stephen W. Kress (2006) or his The Bird Garden (1995)
  - Attracting Birds & Butterflies by Barbara Ellis (1997)
  - ₩ Bird Gardens by Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1998)

- Songbirds in Your Garden by John K. Terres (1994)
- The Audubon Backyard Birdwatcher: Birdfeeders and Bird Gardens by Robert Burton (1999)
  - Attracting Birds to Your Backyard by Sally Roth (1998)
- Book by Karen Blumer (1990; long out-of-print but in many libraries; not specifically focused on birds)

#### Some Plants to Consider

Bayberry: Northern \* Beech: American \* Birch: Sweet (aka Black Birch) \* Blackberry: Northern \* Blueberry: Highbush & Lowbush # Cedar: Eastern Red # Chokecherry: Red \* Dogwood: Flowering \* Hackberry: Common \* Hollies: Inkberry, American & Winterberry (need male and female plants for berries) \* Maple: Red (aka Swamp Maple) T Mulberry: Red T Oaks: Northern Red, White & Pin \* Persimmon: Common \* Pine: Pitch \* Sassafras \* Serviceberry (aka Shadbush) T Spicebush: Common T Sumacs: Smooth & Staghorn Tupelo: Black (aka Blackgum) \* Viburnums: Arrowwood, Blackhaw, Nannyberry & American Cranberrybush \* Virginia Creeper Willows: Pussy

Therese and I have planted several of these in the past decade; the most successful in attracting birds so far have been the arrowwood viburnum and winterberries. Also, the long-established eastern white oaks on our property and in adjacent yards attract lots of attention year-round.

## Ntaba African Safaris 🚜 🖧

#### Lorraine Bondi

New York Agent/East Coast Agency Director We specialize in travel to Southern Africa. Contact me for your dream birding safari, photographic safari and the trip of a lifetime.

lorraine@ntabatours.com; (917) 653-8430

www.ntabaafrica.com

#### PLOVER VOLUNTEERS WANTED

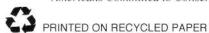
John Zarudsky

The Town of Hempstead's Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in ensuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest between Point Lookout and Atlantic Beach. Audubon volunteers will help prevent disturbancestonestingareas, will record the presence of plover chicks and any incidents of predation, and can give beachgoers educational literature pertaining to Piping Plovers (pictured) and terns. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If you're interested and are able to volunteer regularly, please contact SSAS member John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 486-5272.

### 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



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1181
NONPROFIT
Freeport, NY

## 2013-2014 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Jim Brown, President & Conservation 608-1446

5iii brown, i resident & Conservation 008-1440	
Marilyn Hametz, Vice President & Publicity 799-7189	
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer 536-4808	
Arlene Rawls, Recording Secretary 712-9514	
Therese Lucas, Corresponding Secretary	
& Greening of Long Island 221-3921	
Emma Carpenter, Director (6/16) 637-4901	
Richard Kopsco, Director (6/16) & Brookside	
Preserve Co-Chairperson 825-6792	
Mary Colway, Director (6/15) 887-0153	
Paul Stessel, Director (6/15) & NAS Liaison 295-1137	
Steven Schellenger, Director (6/14), Field Trips,	
Brookside Preserve Co-Chairperson	
& NYSOA/Young Birders Liaison 987-8103	
Don Temple, Director (6/14)	
Betty Borowsky, Education	
Gail Brown, Hospitality	
Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications 671-7685	
John Gaglione, Programs 731-5012	
Joseph Grupp, Research	
Betsy Gulotta, College Scholarships 546-8841	
Wendy Murbach, Membership 546-6303	
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631-957-0949	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599-1224	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	

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

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$20 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 by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 from these dues 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.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.

★◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆     Donations to SSAS are always	
Yes, I'd like to join: ☐ SSAS only	☐ National Audubon too
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
	(Zip+4
PHONE NO.:	
E-MAIL:	
Chapter Code C4ZR150Z (South Si	hore Audubon Society)
******	