

square miles — maybe even larger. For this discussion, I am defining it as an area large enough for a bird walk.)

The reason this diversity is so wonderful is that each ecosystem has a distinct assemblage of animals and plants. So living on the Island affords us the opportunity to observe an extraordinarily diverse set of living things.

How is it possible to have so many ecosystems within such a small geographic area? Well, the most important determinant of an ecosystem is overall climate. Long Island is in the temperate zone — that part of the earth that lies between latitudes 23.5° N to 66.5° N; and 23.5° S to 66.5° S. Even though it can get pretty cold and pretty hot around here, compared to the more northern and southern latitudes it is a fairly moderate climate. And the ocean that surrounds the Island makes our climate even milder compared to other, more inland locations at the same latitude. (How often in the winter do we hear that a storm will bring snow to Westchester and rain to Long Island?) So a great number of kinds of plants can survive here all year round. And if there are a great number of kinds of plants in an area, then there are plenty of different kinds of animals that will be supported by feeding on those plants as well.

Now consider our geological history. We know that about 15,000 years ago a glacier covered the northern part of the Island. Its southernmost edge stopped just where the Northern State Parkway is today. And then the glacier melted. The smaller particles of rock held in the frozen ice were washed southward with the meltwater, forming our sandy southern shores, but the heavier pieces were dropped in place as the glacier receded, forming a layer of topsoil in the north. That's why there are sandy dunes on the south shore (such as at Jones Beach State Park), and why there are forests and relatively pebbly shores in the north (such as at Welwyn Preserve, in Glen Cove).

In addition, of course, we are surrounded by seawater. Many of the animals and plants that live in full-strength seawater (such as at Jones Beach) are really different from those that live in reduced-salinity seawater (such as at Cow Meadow Park and Preserve, in Freeport), and different again from those that live in or near freshwater lakes (such as at Hempstead Lake State Park) or streams and ponds (such as at Massapequa Preserve).

But even that's not all. Our *specific* geographic location adds to the diversity of wildlife we can observe as well. Long Island lies directly under the Atlantic Flyway — the path along the east coast that many birds follow during their seasonal migrations. So not only can we enjoy the many birds that are permanent residents here, but we can also observe the ones that are just passing through. To me, two of the more spectacular natural events of the year occur in June, when horseshoe crabs (pictured) come ashore to lay their eggs, and millions of shorebirds arrive from the south just in time to eat them; and in October,



when raptors coming from the north follow the shoreline on the Atlantic coast and fly over the barrier beaches at West End 2 at Jones Beach (and, of course other places on the Island) as they migrate to the south. You can see many birds of prey flying just overhead on a good day in October.

Where am I going with this? Well, during the course of the year the South Shore Audubon Society leads bird walks in most of the sites I've mentioned (and many more!), and we invite you to join us and experience them firsthand. Although our main focus is birds, birds exist in the context of their preferred ecosystems, and so we also learn about the ecosystems themselves, as well as the other animals and plants we might encounter that day.

So take advantage of the proximity of so many natural environments here, join us on Sunday mornings (the schedule of our walks is in this newsletter), and enjoy the numerous ecosystems that have been preserved on Long Island.



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 (third Tuesday in November) 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. 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:

- Baldwin Sharon D. Duritz-Spocinski
- Farmingdale Jeanne M. Buck
- Franklin Square F. Scarinci
- Garden City Maria Kavan
- Hempstead Laura L. Levy
- Merrick Jennivene T. Larson
- Old Bethpage Marc Mandel
- Plainview Philip Hershkowitz
- Rockville Centre Phyllis Tobin
- Seaford Karleen Lown, Barbara Weiss
- Wantagh Elaine Akley, Michelle Panella
- West Hempstead Ellen Morfeld



NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201



SSAS CALENDAR

Marilyn Hametz

October 2014

- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library
"Wildlife In Need of Rescue & Rehabilitation"
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 P.M.
- NYS Audubon Council Fall Meeting
Mayville, NY, Oct. 17-19
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2014

- Brookside Fall Cleanup
Sunday, Nov. 16, 1 P.M.
- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library
"Wildlife Through the Seasons" with Lloyd Spitalnik
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 P.M.
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

December 2014

- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7:30 P.M.
- Tackapausha Children's Holiday Party
Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 P.M.
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28

January 2015

- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library
Members' Night
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 P.M.
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25

February 2015

- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 P.M.
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

March 2015

- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 P.M.
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

April 2015

- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 P.M.
- Brookside Cleanup (TBA)
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
April 5, 12, 19, 26

May 2015

- Central Park Bird Walk
Saturday, May 2
- Birdathon
Friday, May 8, 5 P.M. — Saturday, May 9, until 5 P.M.
- General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 P.M.
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
May 3, 10, 17, 31

June 2015

- Annual Dinner
Tuesday, June 9
- Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
June 7, 14

 **BIRD WALKS** 
Joe Landesberg

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Joe at 467-9498. Directions and lists of what we've seen may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Sep. 28 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
- Oct. 5 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Oct. 12 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
- Oct. 19 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Oct. 26 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Nov. 2 Alley Pond Park (76th Ave. parking lot)
- Nov. 9 Mill Pond Park
- Nov. 16 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
- Nov. 23 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 30 Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)

FILL 2015 WITH BIRDS AND NATURE

Therese Lucas

You can easily fill 2015 with birds and nature by using an Audubon calendar! Once again, the South Shore Audubon Society is offering an assortment of Audubon calendars at a reduced rate. The cost is \$10 and the assortment will include Songbirds, The World of Trees, and National Parks. They will be available in October at the general meeting and Sunday bird walks as long as supplies last.



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

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE

Rich Kapsco

In August, a group of residents living on Lorenz Avenue in Baldwin, along with their first-term Nassau County Legislator, Laura Curran, held a cleanup in the northern portion of Brookside Preserve. SSAS thanks them for their efforts!

Our fall cleanup is scheduled for **Sunday, November 16**, starting at 1 P.M. SSAS manages Brookside Preserve, which is owned by Nassau County and straddles the Freeport-Baldwin border just north of the LIRR tracks.

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.*

THOUGHTS, NEWS, AND OPINION FROM YOUR CONSERVATION CHAIR

Jim Brown

As I write this column, the **People's Climate March** is a little over a week away, scheduled for Sunday, September 21. The Climate March should prove to be an historic event with probably over 100,000 people participating. More than 1,000 different organizations, including South Shore Audubon Society, have signed on as sponsoring partners. It will hopefully be a momentous event, scheduled to precede and impact the **United Nations Climate Summit** to be held on September 23. This U.N. Climate Summit, organized by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, differs from other summits in that world heads of state, not their subordinate delegates, will be participating directly in climate-related talks. World leaders will be discussing the climate crisis at the summit and hopefully taking concrete action to combat global warming and climate change. The People's March, on the streets of New York City, will hopefully send a strong message to world leaders that cannot be ignored: human-generated carbon emissions must be brought under control — and quickly — if we, other species, and the environment generally are to avoid a climate change catastrophe.

National Audubon Society is also participating in the People's Climate March. Audubon scientists, using data from Christmas Bird Counts and North American Breeding Bird Surveys, have recently released a study of how climate change — global warming and its ramifications — is adversely affecting birds. National Audubon studied 588 bird species and found that 314 of these will lose more than 50% of their current climatic range by 2080. Many species of birds will be affected by climate change in New York as habitat is lost — including Common Loon, Purple Finch, Wood Thrush, Ruffed Grouse, Bobolink, Ovenbird, and Wild Turkey. Bird species already experience many human-induced threats and global warming may be what drives many to the brink of extinction — and beyond!

We hope that the People's Climate March will be a huge success and that world leaders, pushed by people who keenly appreciate the need to solve the huge problems of global warming and climate chaos, will take important actions following the March and Climate Summit.

South Shore Audubon members and friends can take additional action to combat global warming and climate change on **Saturday, October 11** in Long Beach, even closer to home than NYC! Scheduled for 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. on the boardwalk at National Blvd. is the **2014 Global**

Frackdown, a rally to Ban Fracking Now! and to halt the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility. Hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), in addition to its negative health effects, serious impact on water quality, and ability to cause earthquakes, creates global warming through the release of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) when burned and by the leaking of the even-more-potent greenhouse gas CH₄ (methane) as it is produced and transported. LNG facilities are being planned — including the Port Ambrose facility slated to be constructed 19 miles south of Long Beach — to liquefy the fracked gas for export overseas. Join us — South Shore Audubon Society, Food and Water Watch, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, and other Long Island groups and individuals — for a spirited rally to fight global warming! Renewable energy is needed, not more fossil fuel development! If you have questions regarding the rally, call me at 516-608-1446.

Phone: (516) 931-1445

Fax: (516) 931-1467

E-Mail: lgk1cpa@aol.com

LEONARD G. KONSKER

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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



*Explore the coast
with the*

**AMERICAN
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY CRUISE (Sat., Sept. 27, 3 P.M.). Come aboard the "Golden Sunshine" boat leaving from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Learn about the history, ecology and wildlife of this 13,000 acre preserve. See migrating hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds and tour the backwater marshes of the bay. Cost: \$55/person includes 3-hour narrated tour, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks.

HAWK WATCH AT JAMAICA BAY (Sun., Oct. 5, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at Bldg. 1, Fort Tilden for a hike to the hawk watch platform on top of the high bunker. Great views of bay and ocean and any falcon or hawk that is migrating along the coast. Leader: Don Riepe. Free; contact Don to register.

WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP (Sat., Dec. 6, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.) Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge Visitor Center for a slide program on waterfowl and hike the beach and woods to view the many species of ducks and geese that spend winter in Jamaica Bay. Contact Don to register. With NYC Audubon.

MONTAUK (Jan. 9-11). Spend a weekend at the luxurious Manor House and visit many natural areas during the quiet but peak birding season. See seals, scoters, loons and lots more. Cost: \$395 incl. 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, a star watch plus free pickup at LIRR station.

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

