

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2016

NEXT MEETING

Paul Stessel

DATE:	Tuesday, November 15, 2016
REASON:	Library Is Closed on Election Day
TIME:	7:30 р.м.
PLACE:	Freeport Memorial Library
	144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKER:	Joe Giunta
TOPIC:	<u>Owls in the Night</u>

Just two months after his last appearance, Joe Giunta will be returning to present another lively slide-illustrated program, this time about the nine species of owls that can be seen in the New York metropolitan area. We will find out when and where they can be found, what their lives are like, and what it is about owls that captures birders' imaginations. Emphasis will be placed on Long Island's two breeding species, the Great Horned Owl and Eastern Screech Owl.

Joe has led bird walks for the Nature Conservancy, NYC Audubon, Brooklyn Bird Club, Road Scholars, and the South Fork Natural History Society, and has taught birding classes at Brooklyn Botanic Garden for 15 years. He is the owner of Happy Warblers, a travel and education company, and has birded throughout the United States, Panama, Belize, and Costa Rica. Join us!

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 and Sy Schiff reviewed in the previous *Skimmer*. This meeting's book is *Flight Paths: A Field Journal of Hope, Heartbreak, and Miracles with New York's Bird People* by Darryl McGrath.

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE A Walk in the Park Betty Borowsky

As it happens, I went on two nature walks with two different groups at Hempstead Lake State Park (HLSP) last Monday (October 10). Before we started, I told the groups that HLSP is a very special place for wildlife. Basically a temperate zone freshwater wetlands, it has many different sub-habitats within it. Its wetlands consist of a lake [Hempstead Lake is the largest lake in Nassau County (it is 167 acres and, in places, ten feet deep)], ponds, tiny streams, and areas which are consistently muddy. Since different species prefer different types of bodies of water, this habitat diversity attracts an exceptionally large number of species. Equally important, all of these habitats are set within about 737 acres of uninterrupted temperate zone forest. Some species, especially the larger ones, require a lot of uninterrupted habitat. I mentioned that, at present, this is the only place in Nassau County where Bald Eagles live, and one of the very few places on Long Island where Great Horned Owls not only live, but breed. I told them that I was certain we would see a great many species of animals and plants, but that they should not get their hopes up about seeing the eagles and owls, because there are only a few of them in the park.

A short time after this introduction, we heard a great commotion of Blue Jays, and we went to see what had aroused them. As most of you know, Blue Jays are the security detail of the forest and make loud alarm cries when they perceive a local danger. When they do that, it warns not only other Blue Jays but all the other wildlife about the situation; but for us it generally means there's something worthwhile to see nearby. So the group went to where the calls were concentrated and, sure enough, there were two Great Horned Owls (pictured) being harassed by the jays. Then the owls took off, affording us spectacular views of these huge birds. When you see those owls fly, you can only gasp.

Walking around one shallow pond, we saw many, many birds; the usual residents, plus a mixed flock of passerines, including at least three species of warblers in their fall plumage, plus several Eastern Phoebes that were fly-catching over the spatterdock. Along the way were chipmunks; at Mc-Donald Pond we saw giant freshwater apple snails and a raft (literally a raft) of red-eared sliders. We were also delighted to spot a tiny turtle (most likely also a red-eared slider) that undoubtedly hatched just this year.

Almost ready to end the walk, a shadow passed us, and, looking up, there was a Bald Eagle flying overhead. At the end of the walk someone said "what a great day." I would say that any day with a Bald Eagle and a Great Horned Owl in it is a great day.

In the afternoon, I hesitated to tell the second group what we had seen in the morning, because I didn't want them to be disappointed when they saw fewer glory birds. I finally did tell them though, because one of the great advantages of taking a nature walk with a group is that you have many eyes to help spot wildlife. But I needn't have hesitated. To all of our delights, we saw everything in the afternoon that had been seen in the morning except for the owls. And, to compensate for no owls, we saw a muskrat swimming leisurely across the pond, and a Great Blue Heron no farther away than 20 feet. Viewed under the spotting scope, you could see each vibrant feather.

You don't always see so much wildlife in the park. If you go to the park on a summer weekend, it is packed with picnickers; children are playing in the fields and fishing in McDonald Pond or enjoying the carousel; people are riding their bicycles everywhere; people are allowing their dogs to swim and run around in the dog walk area. But — and here is the point of this message — the wildlife is still there!

This very special refuge is perennially threatened by development. Several years ago a swath of it was turned into sports fields, and another swath, just north of the sports fields, was mowed down. The foliage that was mowed down was where Indigo Buntings nested every year. We knew where the nest was, and used to be able to spend as long as we liked enjoying these especially beautiful birds.

We cannot afford to lose any more of it — and we cannot afford to have it altered in any way that will harm its wildlife. But it seems like there is some new threat to it every year. The South Shore Audubon Society continues to work hard to protect this unique refuge. Our first job is to apprise you, our members and friends, about how critical the park is to wildlife conservation in our area. Our second is to notify you when there is a new threat to it and to solicit your support to prevent it. We know we can count on you to support these efforts when the time comes to take action.

THE PROBLEM OF THE GRUMMAN–BETHPAGE PLUME Jim Brown

SSAS has formulated a policy on seeking an environmentally sound solution to the Grumman–Bethpage Plume of Contaminated Water. Below is our official response to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's suggested alternatives for solving this long-standing threat to our water supply. [*Editor's interruption:* see last month's *Skimmer* for my article about those alternatives.]

The South Shore Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society that represents approximately 1300 households on Long Island. Following are comments we would like to address to the Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the Remedial Options Report/Grumman–Bethpage Facility:

Of the three remedial options discussed in detail in the report, we find option 1, involving discharge of water into Massapequa Creek, to be an especially problematic and harmful approach to the problem presented by the Bethpage Plume. Discharging such a huge amount of water into Massapequa Creek for many years is likely to have a negative impact on the environment and wildlife found within this important Nassau County Preserve. The South Shore Audubon Society objects to drastically altering the Preserve's basic ecology in this way.

More generally, we feel that there are real problems with removing and sending to the ocean, either via Massapequa Creek or an outfall pipe, such a huge amount of freshwater, thereby adversely affecting the volume of water in our aquifers, our only source of drinking water. The report mentions positive aspects of "recharging treated groundwater" and "direct reuse of water after wellhead treatment." We hope that these possibilities will be studied and pursued as a solution to the water contamination emanating from the Grumman–Bethpage facility.

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

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.

LONG BEACH BARRIER ISLAND CONSTRUCTION

This autumn, local birders will be seeing construction around the "jetties" known as Harlequin Duck haunts at Point Lookout. This is part of a plan to rehabilitate 18 existing groins (technically, groins are smaller shoreperpendicular structures, built to trap sand and stabilize a sandy beach, and jetties are larger structures typically used to stabilize inlet channels), construct 4 new groins at Point Lookout, and raise the berm and dunes along Long Beach Barrier Island from East Rockaway Inlet to Jones Inlet. The purpose of this project is to manage inundation, erosion, and waves in order to reduce the potential for storm-induced damage. It should be noted, however, that the level of coastal storm risk management the project targets is a 100-year storm, or a storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in a given year; Hurricane Sandy was approximately a 180-year storm.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer worked to obtain federal funding for this project, which had been rejected in 2006 by the City of Long Beach due to the costs to non-federal sponsors. The federal government is paying the full cost of the initial construction using Sandy relief funds, and 65% of future renourishment costs, although that amount could be increased. The estimated cost of the initial construction is \$230 million. The time frame for the construction is 2016–2020.

The berm will be raised to 7 or 9 feet depending on location, except for Nickerson Beach, which will be left undisturbed to allow for bird nesting and foraging. Dunes will be raised to 14 feet, including at Nickerson. Sand will be borrowed from areas about one mile offshore. Regarding environmental impact, no construction will occur during shorebird breeding season. Nevertheless, given that the birds do not confine themselves to the "historical shorebird nesting area" mapped out for the project at Nickerson, but establish nests both in the dunes and on the beach from Lido Beach to Point Lookout, it remains to be seen whether raising the berm and dunes will impact their productivity, and that of their predators. On the positive side, it could reduce incidences of nest flooding and provide additional habitat. On the negative side, it could result in poorer habitat, and reduce the prey base (beach invertebrates) and the foraging areas preferred by Piping Plovers and other shorebirds, specifically, the wrack line

and pools created by overwash. Further, heavy machinery and increased noise levels during construction may displace or disrupt nesting and migrating birds. It is crucial that an active monitoring program and adequate buffer zones be maintained.

No long-term effects are expected on marine life, water quality, or air quality. Local residents are concerned,

however, about traffic, pollution, and noise from trucks transporting rocks for the groins, the source of which is a quarry in New Jersey. Access to the beaches will be provided by dune walkovers. For more information, documents associated with the project, and a PowerPoint presentation, see www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/ Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/Jones-Inlet-to-East-Rockaway-Inlet-Long-Beach/.

★★ 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 Memorial Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M., usually 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:

Massapequa Rockville Centre	Christine Gunder Janet Zink Wendy Liederman Andrew Pasternak Joseph Schwarz Frank & Alene Scoblete Allison Pye Phylis Byrne
	Phylis Byrne Brian Lapp, Beverly S. Miller
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RAPTOR BANDING BY BARE HAND

Sy Schiff

It was in 1946 — before the interstates, before the bridge to Assateague Island, before the fully established networks of barrier wildlife refuges in Delaware and Maryland. As a teenager, I accompanied a group who journeyed there from Philadelphia to catch the early migrants before they traveled further north. Bombay Hook and Assateague Island were "exotic" and newly formed refuges. Here was a chance to be the first to bird a new place. I was new to birding, so I went along for the ride.

On one of the trips, we met an ornithologist who was into the banding of raptors. Then as now, migrating falcons follow the barrier beaches. This was before the widespread use of DDT and there were plenty of hawks. Our birds going by the Fire Island Hawk Watch fly by the Cape May Hawk Watch and eventually past spots in Delaware and Maryland where he was set up. There were no traps, no nets; just catch 'em by hand.

He made it sound easy. You lie down in the sand on the beach and are covered with a tarp that hides you from the sky. A six-foot piece of string is tied to the leg of a live pigeon which sits on the sand in the direction from which the birds are coming. "A Merlin [pictured]," a hidden helper calls. That's the signal to pull the string. The pigeon resists and flaps its wings. The falcon is alerted and



dives. Whoosh! It grabs the bird. Now comes the tricky part. Using the string, the bander slowly pulls the pigeon toward him with the falcon's talons stuck in the bird. When it is within reach, both hands come out and grab the falcon's legs. Very carefully. The talons are

razor sharp and you must grab both legs at the same time or else it's bandage time.

The same scheme is used for Peregrine Falcons, but with a difference. Peregrines are big, very strong, and fight like mad when grabbed. They also have huge talons. Scary! The hidden helpers come out to assist with holding the bird, making measurements, and fixing the band. Surprisingly, the falcons don't immediately dispatch the prey.

I asked, "How many banded birds per pigeon?" Answer: "Three on average, ignoring the size of the raptor; sometimes just one and sometimes more." Some pigeons live to see another day.

On one occasion, a Bald Eagle came onto the prey. The bander looked out from under the tarp, right into the eye of the enormous eagle directly in front of him; then the big beak; the thick, strong legs; and finally the massive talons totally engulfing the pigeon.

As he said, "I never came out from under the tarp, and waited till he finished his lunch and flew away. Sometimes, you just have to know when to back off."

ACTION ALERT – STOP THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP TRADE DEAL!

Jim Brown

By the time you this month's Skimmer it will almost be time to vote. No matter for whom you cast your vote on November 8, for President, Congress, or for other more local offices, important political action will still be required of us in the days and weeks immediately following the election. It is extremely likely that a lame-duck Congress and a lame-duck President will be taking up and voting on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Deal. It is critical that Congress vote this harmful trade deal down when it comes up for a vote.

The TPP is more than a simple deal concerning trade. It is rather a deal that would adversely affect not only our environment here and throughout the world, but would also negatively affect any progress that has been made in the realms of worker rights, food safety, and public health. One of the most alarming aspects of the TPP is its creation of international dispute tribunals run by corporate lawyers. These secretive and unelected tribunals would have the power to overturn national, state, and local environmental laws that interfered with the ability of corporations, foreign and domestic, to make a profit. U.S. sovereignty and democracy would be drastically undermined and curtailed. The TPP - if enacted - would also increase the volume of uninspected seafood, increase fracking, and undo legislation the U.S. has pursued in labeling food.

All SSAS members are urged to take action to stop the TPP! Call 877-852-4710 and you will be put in touch with your Congressional representative (the real



ongressional representative (the real fight will be in the House of Representatives). Urge your Congressperson to REJECT the TPP! Make your calls in November. Thursday, November 17 is scheduled to be a special national call-in day to defeat the TPP — call then as well. Let's all

take this important action to protect both our democracy and our environment!

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.

VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306
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DISCOUNTED AUDUBON CALENDARS FROM SSAS

At our walks and meetings, we're selling three Audubon wall calendars for \$11 apiece (list price \$14.99): Songbirds & Other Backyard Birds, Nature, and Wildflowers.

The Songbirds picture-a-day calendar features a large photograph at the top of the page, plus smaller images throughout the grid. Accompanying the photographs is detailed text describing species characteristics, songs and calls, migration patterns, habitats, and more.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AT TACKAPAUSHA

Marilyn Hamelz

The South Shore Audubon Annual Holiday Party for Children with the Tackapausha Museum will be **Saturday, December 17**. At the party, from 1 to 4 P.M., we will be providing light refreshments and will have tables for nature crafts. Wildlife demonstrations are featured at the party.

If you would like to enjoy the event as a South Shore Audubon volunteer, please contact me at 799-7189 or marilynexpl@yahoo.com.

This special event is also a great time to visit the museum with your children or grandchildren. Admission is \$5 per person (adults & children).

Tackapausha Museum and Preserve is located at 2255 Washington Avenue (between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway) in Seaford; telephone 571-7443.

SSAS CALENDAR

Marilyn Hamelz

November 2016

Brookside Preserve Fall Cleanup Sunday, Nov. 13, 1 P.M. General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7:30 P.M. Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27

December 2016

General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 P.M. Tackapausha Children's Holiday Party Saturday, Dec. 17, 1 P.M. Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. Dec. 4, 11, 18

January 2017

General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m. Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

February 2017

General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

March 2017

General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, March 14, 7:30 P.M. Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2017

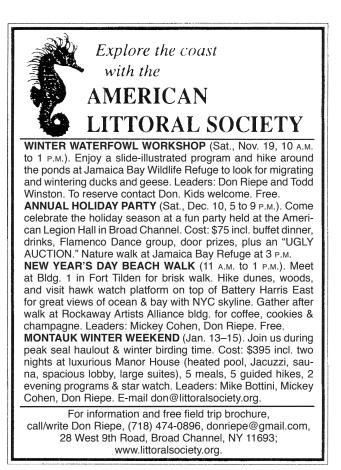
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 P.M. Flea Market April 8 (rain date April 15) Brookside Preserve Cleanup (TBA) Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. April 2, 9, 23, 30

May 2017

Central Park Bird Walk Saturday, May 6 General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. Birdathon Friday, May 12, 5 p.m. to Saturday, May 13, 5 p.m. Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 2017

Annual Dinner Tuesday, June 13 Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:00 A.M. June 4, 11



5

ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER

Michael Sperling

If you have something to advertise, you can reach about 1300 SSAS households and others by spending \$30 for a business-card sized ad in an issue of the *Skimmer*. The deadline for getting something into our newsletter is normally the first week of the preceding month. Please send e-mail to mssperling@optonline.net if you're interested. Postal restrictions prohibit us from accepting some types of ads (such as for credit cards, insurance, and commercial travel).

FIRE ISLAND TO MONTAUK POINT PROJECT

Editor's note: Below is a letter, written by Brien Weiner and Jim Brown, that was sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after approval by SSAS's board; the comment deadline of October 19 for the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Reevaluation Report will pass while this Skimmer is at the printer. However, on September 29, the NPS issued the following announcement: "Dear Friend, The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of making a decision to determine whether or not to close the breach that opened in the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness Area in Fire Island National Seashore during Hurricane Sandy. To assist in the decision-making process, the National Park Service prepared a draft environmental impact statement to be released in the next few weeks. This document identifies and evaluates alternatives for managing the wilderness breach. To learn more about the Draft Wilderness Breach Plan/EIS and the upcoming public review process, download the Public Review Notice Newsletter from the NPS park planning website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BreachPlanNewsletter2. The Draft Wilderness Breach Plan/EIS will be available for review and comment in a few weeks on the same website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FireIslandBreach-ManagementPlan. We look forward to hearing from you." As I'm typing this paragraph, that Plan is yet to be posted. Here's our letter:

The Honorable Colonel David A. Caldwell Commander, New York District United States Army Corps of Engineers 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2113 New York, NY 10278-0090 Attn.: Robert Smith, Project Biologist

Dear Colonel Caldwell and Mr. Smith,

On behalf of the South Shore Audubon Society, thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments on the Draft Reevaluation Report and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Fire Island to Montauk Point project. The mission of the South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and to preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

The South Shore Audubon Society supports a balanced approach to storm recovery and coastal risk reduction that includes long-term strategies that benefit the region's communities and coastal ecosystems. Our primary interest in this project is on how it impacts at-risk species like the federally threatened Piping Plover [pictured; drawing by Julie Zickefoose] and priority coastal habitats such as beaches and salt marshes.

The beach habitat on the southern coast of Long Island is one of the most significant stretches of habitat to numerous priority shorebirds, including the federally and

state-listed Piping Plover and Roseate Tern, as well as the state-listed Common Tern and Least Tern, and the state species of special concern Black Skimmer. It is clear from our review of the FIMP Report that this project will reduce the availability of that habitat



in New York. The Report overstates the threat that overwash and breaches contribute to storm risk and damage, and the Breach Response component of the FIMP Report ignores the science on the benefits of these features. This project will prevent the creation of overwash habitat, which provides optimal habitat for Piping Plovers, and the Report does not outline how the FIMP project will mitigate for that.

Moreover, the ESA [Endangered Species Act] Compliance section of the EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] acknowledges that the prey base for Piping Plovers will be reduced due to destruction of the wrack line, and that additional beach habitat may result in increased predator populations and increased recreational use, reducing the population of Piping Plovers. The EIS then dismisses the impact on the Common Tern, Least Tern, Roseate Tern, and Black Skimmer by stating essentially that what is good for the Piping Plover will be good for other birds. The EIS not only contradicts itself, but ignores the very different nesting habits of Piping Plovers, the various terns, and Black Skimmers.

Overall, the EIS downplays the impacts to Piping Plovers and does not fully evaluate impacts to Piping Plover habitat. The EIS Executive Summary does not even acknowledge the potential that the FIMP project will reduce the study area's habitat suitability for Piping Plovers.

In addition to beach habitat, the Project Area includes impressive areas of salt marsh habitat, which supports the at-risk Saltmarsh Sparrow. Saltmarsh Sparrow is found across the Atlantic Coast, but only breeds on a thin sliver of coastline between Maine and Virginia. Saltmarsh Sparrow is on many state watch lists and is considered "vulnerable" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) list of threatened species. Following our review of the FIMP Report, we concluded that additional opportunities to create and enhance salt marsh habitat should have been considered, especially in the coastal processes features components. Overwash provides storm protection benefits by accumulating sand and contributing to barrier island development and marsh creation.

Regarding Breach Response, including reactive, proactive, and conditional breach alternatives, this component of the Report needs to be completely revisited. Rather than spend millions of dollars trying to prevent natural processes from occurring, we should identify places to allow natural processes to occur so that we can take advantage of the benefits of those natural features. Research from Stony Brook University shows that there has been no additional flooding from the Old Inlet breach and marine life is returning to the Great South Bay. Previously, excess nitrogen from leaking septic systems and stormwater runoff containing fertilizer and herbicides produced brown tides and algae blooms that endangered the ecosystem. Since the breach opened, water quality and clarity have improved.

This project needs to include a more thorough assessment of managed retreat and climate change adaptation that includes buyouts, converting flood zone properties into natural areas that serve as buffers during future storm events, and preventing further development of flood zones. At present, the focus of that component of the plan is on raising homes and does not include critical upgrades to septic systems, which is a major issue for human health and water quality. Although the Old Inlet breach has been cleaning the Great South Bay, we cannot continue to flush our waste into the ocean. The Report also needs to incorporate updated projections on sea level rise; it is currently using historical levels, which are extremely conservative.

Many areas of this Report include generalizations, and lack specifics and commitment by local sponsors and other necessary parties, as well as agreement by all major agencies within the Department of the Interior, to ensure implementation. This leaves us to question which components of the Report will actually be implemented. Further, the necessary cost-share agreements (not required for Phase 1 but for its maintenance) with some of the local partners have not been established yet; this is needed in order for the project to move ahead.

In conclusion, critical components of the Report need to be revisited to ensure this project is the best long-term solution to manage the risk of coastal storm damage on Long Island. As it stands now, this project unjustifiably impacts federally threatened species and habitat without adequate mitigation to offset impacts, and it misses notable opportunities to further retreat and adaptation strategies that could directly reduce future storm damage. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Sincerely,

South Shore Audubon Society

All walks start at **9** A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Call me at 467-9498 in case of questionable conditions or for other info. Directions and lists of what we've seen are at ssaudubon.org; recent lists are on our Facebook page.

Oct. 30	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
	(Lido Preserve afterwards)
Nov. 6	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
	side of Merrick Rd.)
Nov. 13	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 20	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
Nov. 27	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Dec. 4	Alley Pond Park (76th Ave. parking lot)
Dec. 11	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
Dec. 18	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
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#### **BROOKSIDE PRESERVE FALL CLEANUP**

On Sunday, November 13, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its fall cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine. Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that SSAS rescued from development and manages. PDF files of our trail guide and children's freshwater wetland guide can be downloaded from ssaudubon.org. The the Freeport-Baldwin Preserve is located on Creek; park at the main border, along Milburn entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light

that's just east of Freeport High School). Please bring work gloves and spend an hour or two with us.

## PLANTS FOR BIRDS AT AUDUBON.ORG Michael Sperling

Audubon introduced www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds in September, with SSAS among the chapters offering to help people who search its database for native plants by Zip code. National Audubon Society's goal for "Plants for Birds" is to "grow one million bird-friendly plants together." In addition to information and a photo for each plant, the site contains FAQs, advice, lists of nurseries that specialize in natives, etc. The database already has lots of info about many plants (104 that would bring the "best results" for my Zip code and 485 local natives); check it out.

Also, while you're surfing at audubon.org, you may want to visit www.audubon.org/news/birding-new-york for information about our state's top birding "hotspots."

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

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 \$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.

## 🗇 Donations to SSAS are always welcome! \$

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

·····

ADDRESS:

_____(Zip+4)

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 (South Shore Audubon Society)