

VOLUME 47. NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-AUGUST 2017

#### NEXT MEETING

Paul Stessel

DATE:	Tuesday, May 9, 2017	
TIME:	7:30 р.м.	
PLACE:	Freeport Memorial Library	
	144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)	
SPEAKER:	Travis Hammill	
TOPIC:	Wild Utah: Red Rock Wilderness	

There's nothing quite like the natural wonders of Utah with its vast network of canyons, steep snow-covered mountain slopes, unique monuments in the middle of open landscapes, and a rich cultural history in the cliffs and valleys. Much of the land in Utah is public land, man-

aged by the federal government so as to be accessible for everyone to enjoy. Utah is unique; the state has more than 9 million acres of land that qualify as "wilderness" lands, which means they are pristine, untrammeled areas



that should be protected and preserved for the many ecological and climate-buffering functions they provide.

Unfortunately, multiple threats could destroy access to and the quality of these public lands. Mineral mining, oiland-gas drilling leasing, oil-shale production, potash production, off-road vehicle use, privatization and closure, and vandalism are serious threats. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), based in Salt Lake City, works to galvanize wilderness advocates and activists to protect their public lands in Utah from these threats.

"Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness" is a short film, narrated by Robert Redford, that features images of Utah's redrock wilderness areas and music produced by Utahns who want to see these beautiful public lands protected. Travis Hammill, Eastern Grassroots Organizer for SUWA, will follow the film and discuss the current legislative issues that face the wilderness movement in Utah and what citizens across the United States can do.

Our guest speaker is stationed in SUWA's Washington, DC office and works closely with SUWA's legislative team, roaming the halls of Congress and ensuring that all Americans are able to access their lands.

Travis graduated from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia with a degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Before working with SUWA, he was employed by the retailer REI, focusing on the Outdoor Programs and Outreach division in his stores to build the connection between being an REI customer and being an advocate for the environment. He has visited Utah's canyon country many times in the past decade to go hiking, climbing, canyoneering, and kayaking. When he isn't in the office, you'll find him out on the trails. 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 Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change by Elizabeth Kolbert.

**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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•	IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE	
. –	BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.	
• SHAD	e-grown coffee protects rainforests!	
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Renewal



Belty Borowsky

It is spring again. Here in Nassau County, spring means looking forward to months of warm weather and especially to lots of time spent out of doors. The physical parameters of spring - lengthening days, warmer weather, and so on — make our plants green out, and our animals court and have their young; and they lift our spirits too. If you are a birder, of course, you enter a birding frenzy, and feel every minute inside is a minute lost because you are apart from the glorious warblers, tanagers (pictured), and so many other migrants that are passing through.

In addition to this annual seasonal renewal, the South Shore Audubon Society is renewed every spring when we elect new officers and directors. Our bylaws stipulate that the president and vice president can serve for only three consecutive years. This is very wise, because it ensures that new ideas and new energy will be infused into the chapter on a regular basis, and guarantees that our organization will remain young and vibrant.

So this is my last President's Message.

When I began my first term of office three years ago, I thought I could maybe write a few messages, but once I began to write I couldn't stop! As a nation, we are in the midst of what may be the darkest period for environmental conservation ever. Ecology teaches that we are inseparable from the environment; anything that harms the environment is going to harm all living things, including human beings. The South Shore Audubon Society is keenly aware of the potentially catastrophic consequences of things like ignoring the impact of human activity on global warming; of allowing the free use of pesticides known to harm human health; indeed, of believing, for even a moment, that there could be such a thing as an "alternate fact"; and is working hard to offset the forces promoting these ideas.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve the chapter. I am especially grateful for the extraordinary dedication and hard work of the members of the board the directors, committee chairpersons, and officers. For most, their service on the board is as time-consuming as a second job — except they are not paid.

I am also grateful for our members, who support us with such enthusiasm; from responding to our fundraising letters, to communicating to their representatives on environmental issues, and to helping protect the birds in so many ways.

As a result of so many good people, the South Shore Audubon Society is a vibrant and influential organization that is well-respected by governmental representatives and by the community at large; and, in consequence, can help preserve the quality of life here on the south shore, as well as contribute to that effort nationwide.

Last, but by no means least, we have a lot of fun! Come join us at our bird walks, our special events (our annual trip to Central Park is coming up), and, in a short time, at our annual dinner (which is a great bargain too). The more the merrier. And bring your children and grandchildren. They are a good part of why we work so hard to keep nature alive in Nassau County. And we really love to see them.

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**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.

## 🖌 BIRD WALKS 🖌

Joe Landesberg

All walks start at **9** A.M.; no walk if it rains. Call me at 467-9498 in case of questionable conditions or for other info. Check www.facebook.com/SSAudubon (you don't need to have a Facebook account) for cancellations, changes, and lists from recent walks. Directions and lists of what we've seen over the years are at ssaudubon.org.

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\*Directions to Hempstead Plains: Take the Meadowbrook State Parkway to Exit M4 (also used for Hempstead Turnpike/Nassau Coliseum). Continue on the exit road to Charles Lindbergh Boulevard west. Go a short distance on the boulevard to the first exit and turn right toward Nassau Community College's East Campus. Just past the first intersection, bear right into the small parking area for Hempstead Plains and its Education Center.

# REGISTER FOR SSAS's 46TH ANNUAL DINNER

Join us for another evening of good food, good company, and lots more at Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead on **Tuesday, June 13**. The cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 P.M. Your dinner registration form is inserted in this newsletter.

SHOREBIRD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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. Volunteers will help prevent disturbances to nesting areas, will record the presence of plover chicks and any incidents of predation, and can give beachgoers educational literature pertaining to Piping Plovers 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 longtime SSAS member John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 486-5272.

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## USE YOUR ZIP CODE TO ATTRACT BRILLIANT BIRDS TO YOUR YARD THIS SPRING

*Editor's note:* The following is part of a National Audubon Society press release.

Audubon invites nature enthusiasts to grow birdfriendly native plants at home. Through Audubon's Plants for Birds public online database (**www.audubon.org**/

**native-plants**), anyone nationwide can access a list of native plants that benefit their favorite local bird species, by just typing in their ZIP code. [*Editor's interruption:* The database is searchable by type of plant, what the plants offer birds (nectar, fruit, butterflies, caterpillars, nuts, and/or seeds), and type of bird.]



Most landscaping plants available in nurseries are exotic species from other countries. Many are prized for qualities that make them poor food sources for wildlife. They generally also require more chemicals and water to thrive, increasing maintenance time, costs, and environmental hazards. Some can even become invasive.

"Birds and native plants are made for each other thanks to millions of years of evolution," says Dr. John Rowden, Audubon's director of community conservation. "As plants grow and bloom earlier because of warming temperatures, there is a growing mismatch between bloom times and the arrival of birds that depend on them. Habitat provided by native plants can help climatethreatened birds adapt and survive."



**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.

## OUR SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK

On **Saturday, May 6**, SSAS is planning to be in Central Park for our annual (weather permitting) early May bird walk. As usual, Chris Cooper (who was featured in HBO's 2012 documentary, "Birders: The Central Park Effect," and traces his birding roots to SSAS) has again volunteered to lead us through the twisting, hilly maze of the Ramble and adjoining areas of the park.

In previous years, we've recorded from 31 to 70-plus species in under three hours. Last year, despite having an overcast day at the end of a migration-unfriendly soggy week, we had 49 species, 13 of which were warblers (see last month's *Skimmer* for a list).

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, NY 11714-4503 (jdelprete47@optonline.net, phone 433-0739).

A group of us will be aboard the local Babylon line train that is due in Penn Station at 8:09; you can look for Joanne on the platform in Massapequa, due to board there at 7:08. 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 <sup>§</sup> for the subway. You can bring lunch, buy lunch in the park or elsewhere, or



head back home after the walk if you prefer. Joanne's cell (476-3761) will be on that day only. Join us!

*Staircase Alert:* Our usual route to Belvedere Castle includes a 30-step climb from the 79th Street Transverse.

# REMEMBERING GEORGE PETERS

Michael Sperling

As this newsletter was being finished, I learned of the passing, on April 13, of George Peters at age 87. He had moved to Vermont in 2010, at the end of five years as a twice-elected SSAS director, three as our president, and a few as co-chairperson of the Brookside Preserve Committee that had originally attracted him to us. An avid gardener with a big, crowded home garden and no lawn, George's earliest President's Messages encouraged water and energy conservation, avoidance of pesticides, and using native plants. His stepdaughter Amy described him very well on her Facebook page: "In loving memory of my dear stepfather, George - Thanks for sharing your gentle spirit, sense of wonder, wisdom, wit, and love of nature. You made this world a kinder, more beautiful place. You'll always be close in heart, inspiring service to others and an attitude of gratitude. Rest in Peace." SSAS will remember him fondly too; George was truly special.

## REMINDER: BROOKSIDE PRESERVE SPRING CLEANUP

On **Sunday, April 30**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its spring cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine.



Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that was rescued from oblivion and is managed by SSAS. PDF files of the trail guide and the freshwater wetland guide for children that we published can be downloaded from ssaudubon.org.

The Preserve is located on the Freeport–Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main 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 gloves, grabbers, rakes, or clippers if possible, and friends of all ages.

## 2017 I LOVE MY PARK DAY AT HEMPSTEAD LAKE STATE PARK

Jim Brown

South Shore Audubon members and friends are urged to participate in this year's "I Love My Park Day" at Hempstead Lake State Park. Come out from 9 A.M. until noon on **Saturday, May 6** (same day as our Central Park trip) and help clean up the shore around the park's North West Pond. All ages are welcome. Bring some water and snacks, and help preserve the habitat at one of Long Island's Important Bird Areas! Register online (www.ptny. org/events/i-love-my-park-day) or at the park on that day. For more information, call the park at 766-1029.

Meet at the field on the east side of Eagle Ave, just north of Southern State Parkway Exit 18.

## PLUM ISLAND DOCUMENTARY NOW VIEWABLE ONLINE

Plum Island, in eastern Long Island Sound, is a refuge for some of our region's most at-risk wildlife, but it is also home to a national research center that is slated to close. Instead of protecting the wildlands of the island, the federal government is trying to auction it to the highest bidder. This could mean that the island's unique habitats, plants, and animals could be lost forever to a developer's bulldozer.

A new 13-minute documentary and other films by Visionaries can be viewed at www.saveplumislandny.org, where you will see why Plum Island is so important, and how a remarkable coalition of organizations and people have come together to save it. The Preserve Plum Island Coalition (www.preserveplumisland.org) originated years ago at a Long Island Audubon Council meeting, and SSAS was one of the first organizations to join it.

## 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 (during hospital hours) or e-mail info@volunteersforwildlife.org (after hours) for assistance and follow the emergency instructions at www.volunteersforwildlife.org/baby-birds.

GARAGE SALE THANKS

SSAS thanks everyone who offered to donate items and/ or their time and energy to help make our April 8 garage sale / flea market the big success that it was: Betty & Bill Belford, Kathi Berlin, Betty & Richard Borowsky, John & Jan Collier, Connie Gallagher, Mary Greenfield, Marilyn Hametz, Les Kappel, Sheila Kiefer, Rich Kopsco, Joe Landesberg, Leona Marx, Anne Mehlinger, Nicole Pedersen, Kathleen Plona, Sharon Popper, Alene & Frank Scoblete, Sue Scotto, Mike Sperling, Nina Swengros, Pearl & Seymour Weinstein, and especially Nancy & Bill Youngfert. (Apologies if we omitted anyone; please let your editor know at mssperling@optonline.net.)

Betty Borowsky wrote: "We cannot thank Nancy and Bill Youngfert enough for spearheading SSAS's flea market this year. Conducting a profitable flea market requires an enormous amount of work. Thanks to the Youngferts' enthusiasm and expertise, this year's flea market was both profitable and fun for everyone. In addition to offering their home to hold it at and to coordinating the activities necessary for a successful market, the Youngferts picked up items from donors' homes before the market, stored what looked to be 500 tons of goods on their porch until the day of the market, and then held onto what wasn't sold until it could be picked up by another charitable organization. One aspect of a flea market that we often forget is that it also delivers goods to low-income families at very low prices. Especially gratifying is our ability to distribute toys to the children who come by. So, altogether, this was a win-win event for everyone involved; and a big thank you to everyone!"

#### **BOOKS FOR BIRDERS**

R. U. Abyrdar II with Sy Schiff

This month's selection is a very "educational" addition to our SSAS reading list — "everything you wanted to know about birds but were afraid to venture further." Here's your opportunity! This book is from "across the pond," by a British author, no less. You'll be reading (I hope!) *Birds: A Complete Guide to their Biology and Behavior* by Jonathan Elphick. You'll learn a lot! Sy's wisdom begins now.

The book starts with a chapter labeled "Early Birds." What follows are nine pages of discussion of 147 million years of bird evolution with illustrations. This 2016 book brings almost all the very latest paleontology on birds right up to date. Among other things, it raises the question "Are birds dinosaurs or are one group of the dinosaur family actually birds?

After that thorough exposition, you're invited to avian med school for an extensive course in anatomy and

physiology. The skeleton and organs are described, and the various adaptations are covered. The section on plumage is most interesting. The structure and types of feathers are described and illustrated. Feather tracts are covered along with how individual feathers develop.



Flight is covered by descriptions of anatomy. "How Birds Fly" covers lift, drag, and the movement of the wings. Speed, types of flight, flight styles, and energy saving are covered in detail.

Food sources and feeding adaptations, along with bird behavior, are covered in sections based on food sources from insects to fish to bats to birds. This is followed by a chapter on breeding. The various ecological zones as they affect birds and migration are covered, as are habitats the birds reside in. The book ends with a small chapter on human-bird interactions.

The subtitle "A Complete Guide..." is right on. It almost appears that there is more here than you ever need to know. But then again, it's all fascinating to read. It's worth picking up the book just to read the comprehensive review of dinosaur to bird evolution that starts the book.

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## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON THE PROPOSED FEDERAL BUDGET!

*Editor's note:* The information below was presented on a slide by Audubon NY's Government Relations Manager, Sasha Eisenstein, during the NYS Audubon Council's meeting in March, at which I was one of four representatives from SSAS. To keep up to date with the federal budget and other issues (such as the Endangered Species Act), and to send e-mail to your Congressional delegation so that they know what you want them to do, go to **www. audubon.org/takeaction**. Environmental Protection Agency Current funding: \$8.3B Proposed: \$5.7B (31% reduction) Impacts: Eliminates more than 50 EPA programs

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Authorized at \$300 million in CR (continuing resolution from Congress, expiring April 28 — ed.)

Proposed: Eliminates GLRI funding "Categorical"/Regional Grants

Proposed: \$597M (decrease of \$482M)

Impacts: Long Island Sound funding, Chesapeake Bay funding (\$0), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), State Wildlife Grant Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Clean Power Plan Proposed: Discontinues funding (\$100M) Water Infrastructure — State Revolving Fund Current funding: \$1.9B Proposed: \$2.3B (\$400M increase)

*Your editor again:* You can find the proposed budget at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/ files/omb/budget/fy2018/2018\_blueprint.pdf ("America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again"). In response, the National Audubon Society issued a press release on March 16, which is at http:// www.audubon.org/news/white-house-budget-wouldput-americas-birds-chopping-block and begins as follows:

"The budget proposal released today would be a death sentence for America's long, bipartisan legacy of protecting our cherished natural places and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them," said David Yarnold (@david\_yarnold), Audubon's president and CEO. The White House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2018 would mean crippling reductions to America's most important conservation initiatives, many of which support Audubon's efforts to protect birds and the places they need.

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### NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2016-2017 BOARD

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on **May 9**, 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 (Marilyn Hametz, and Wendy Murbach, and Michael Sperling) recommends the following candidates: Michael Sperling, president; Brien Weiner, vice president; Joe Landesberg, treasurer; Arlene Rawls, recording secretary; Therese Lucas, corresponding secretary; and two directors (for three-year terms).

**Directors & Officers Liability 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 a cost of \$878.

#### HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER – VOLUNTEER TO BE A GOOD EGG!

Jim Brown

Join with fellow South Shore Audubon members and others in this summer's "Be a Good Egg" program! Volunteers spend the better part of a day at local South Shore beaches, spreading the important message that we should all be "good eggs," and share the beaches with threatened and endangered bird species such as Piping

Plovers, Least Terns, and American Oystercatchers (pictured). Come to the beach and help our state organization, Audubon New York, get the word out, and have beachgoers sign the pledge to responsibly share the beach with our avian friends!



Our threatened and endangered shorebirds nest on the sand and raise their young right on the beach, oftentimes among a veritable sea of humanity. It is therefore critical that people going to our beaches give these birds a wide berth, allowing them to successfully nest and raise their young. Education of the general beach-going public is necessary if these shorebird species are to survive and flourish. Volunteers for the "Be a Good Egg Program" ask people coming to the beach to take a pledge - to be considerate of nesting shorebirds, and in essence to also become good stewards of our precious wildlife. The pledge is simple and straightforward: "1) Keep away from marked or fenced areas where birds are nesting. 2) Keep the beach clean by using proper receptacles or carrying out trash. 3) Keep my dog off of nesting beaches." Communicating these basic points to the general public goes a long way to protect these vulnerable birds from human disturbances and predators. We convey the view that we can all enjoy the beach and share it with shorebirds!

My wife, Gail, and I have participated in this program, and we find it very rewarding. We get to spend a delightful day on the beach, with a comfortable canopy and chairs within reach. We enjoy the camaraderie with other volunteers and Audubon staff. We speak with many people coming to the beach about birds and the necessity of protecting them, especially the endangered and threatened ones. You meet many people, of all ages and interests, and it's fun to share with them our love of birds. Last year we were very lucky in that a family of American Oystercatchers was located right behind our canopy, dispensing with the need to consult our brochure to show potential "good eggs" what these birds looked like! Volunteers hand out bird-related materials and literature, and most people are very happy to sign the "Be a Good Egg Pledge." I urge everyone to come out to the beach this summer and have a great Audubon experience — Be a Good Egg and urge others to become good eggs as well!

To learn more and to sign up for one or more of the following South Shore beach dates (between 9  $_{\rm A.M.}$  and

3 P.M.), contact Amanda Pachomski, Long Island Bird Conservation Program Manager, at apachomski@ audubon.org.

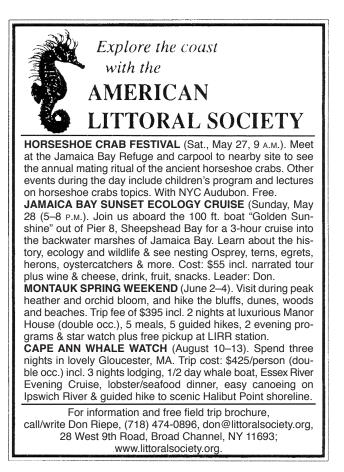
Saturday, June 17: Point Lookout Sunday, June 18: Lido Beach Saturday, July 1: Jones Beach Sunday, July 2: Lido Beach Saturday, July 15: Point Lookout Sunday, July 16: Jones Beach

If you would like to take the pledge yourself online, you can do so at http://ny.audubon.org/birds-0birdsways-help/be-good-egg.

*Editor's note:* If you volunteer, you'll be offering the good eggs their choice of the program's lip balm, magnet, can opener, or pin.

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### NESTING BALD EAGLES AT MY DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL IN GREAT NECK

#### Jonathan Staller

There I was; so excited but where do I begin? It's a very big campus. There's a high school, a middle school, an admissions building, and other smaller structures scattered throughout the property. There are also ball fields, tennis courts, paths, walkways, driveways, and plenty of parking lots. Which one do I park at? I'm still pinching myself. A pair of Bald Eagles, our nation's bird, picked my daughter's school to make their home.

It's not a coincidence that my nickname is the "Birdman." I had to earn that name. Countless bird walks in all types of weather that Mother Nature would send my way. 15-degree treks through the dunes of Jones Beach to find Snowy Owls or 95–100 degree temperatures in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona to see a Harris's Hawk. Pelham Bay to find owls and Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine to see Atlantic Puffins (thanks to Dolores Rogers).

I parked my car in about the middle of the school property and grabbed my binoculars. From experience, I knew that eagles like to nest in tall coniferous trees. I'm walking at a quick pace, looking up and scanning each tree that I pass. After about 30 minutes of what seems like exercising more than bird-watching, I see a custodian. "Do you know anything about the Bald Eagles?" "Yes," he told me. "They arrived about 3 weeks ago and the nest is on the western side of the campus." After thanking him, I walked in that direction and came to a path that was roped off. There was a sign on a post in front of it: "U.S. Fish and Wildlife. No Trespassing. Nesting Bald Eagle Area. Keep Away from March-August. There's also a security guard there to make sure that the rules are followed; he told me, "not only can't you walk past the ropes, I will not show you which tree has the nest." He did, though, pull out his cell phone and showed me a picture of the two eagles perched above the nest.

Bald Eagle nests are huge but first-year nests aren't. As the birds return each year, they add more branches on top of the old nest and that's how they get so large. Some nests have been found with the dimensions of 12 feet deep and 6 feet wide.

I go back to my car and drive to another parking lot. I think that this one will be to my advantage to see them fly to and from the nest. There's a lake to the west of the school property. Now I'm thinking to myself, "come on Birdman, do your magic." Not too long after that thought, I catch a glimpse out of the corner of my eye.

I turn quickly and there I see one! "Oh my gosh," I say out loud as the eagle was flying about 25 feet above my head and majestically flapping its wings to gain more height. White head, white tail, and a brown body. The wingspan had to be at least 7 feet across and wider than a female Red-Tailed Hawk. Female raptors (birds of prey) are larger than the males. I watched the eagle fly until I couldn't see it anymore.

I've seen Bald Eagles in Florida, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and once in New York (Hempstead Lake State Park). The best thing about this pair, though, is that I can see them whenever I want; at my daughter's school.

Editor's note: Jon is a past president of SSAS.

★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 未★ 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 (September through May), 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	s since last month's <i>Skimmer</i> are:
Baldwin	Ann Rochester, Joseph Villani
Bellmore	Joyce Farley, John Luxmore,
	E. Maccone
East Meadow	Christina Martinez
East Rockaway	Margaret Jackiewicz
Floral Park	Steven Kaiser, Michael Schweiger
Garden City	Elizabeth M. Bailey, Joan H. Ripp
Hempstead	Dan Jansen
Levittown	Dorothy Smith
Long Beach	Maura Kuohn
Lynbrook	Thomas Malone
Malverne	Frank T. Hunt, Kathi Paley 🖊 🔪
Merrick	Anthony Ferrara, Robert M. Frank,
	Mary P. Lambert, James Sibree
Oceanside	Maria Cacciuttolo, Kenneth Lawlor
Old Bethpage	Rosalia Fusco
Rockville Centre	Janet S. Matthews
Valley Stream	Marc Putz
Wantagh	Mario Dicerbo, Janis Schroff, Robert Spicer
West Hempstead	

# 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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## 2016-2017 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Betty Borowsky, President & Education 764-3596
Michael Sperling, Vice President & Skimmer Editor 221-3921
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer & Field Trips 536-4808
Arlene Rawls, Recording Secretary 712-9514
Therese Lucas, Corresponding Secretary 221-3921
Bill Belford, Director (6/19) 385-1759
Brien Weiner, Dir. (6/19) & Conservation Co-Chair 220-7121
Mary Colway, Director (6/18) & Annual Dinner
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