

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 48, NUMBER 2 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2017

## NEXT MEETING

*Paul Stessel*

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017  
**TIME:** 7:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Freeport Memorial Library  
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)  
**SPEAKER:** Isabel Fernandes  
**TOPIC:** Live Animals from Tackapausha

For our October meeting, Isabel Fernandes, one of the co-directors of Tackapausha Museum and Preserve in Seaford, will be bringing an assortment of animals, including birds of prey, for us to view up close and learn about. Last year, the star of the show was an opossum that visited some of the front-row attendees' feet and briefly walked out of our meeting room.

Isabel holds a B.A. in wildlife management from Cobleskill University; is a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator and falconer; is the wildlife care coordinator at Sweetbriar Nature Center; and is an arachnophile with an international collection of over 30 spider specimens. She once worked for Audubon NY at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Along with co-director Dennis Fleury, she received SSAS's Elliott Kutner Conservation Award at our annual dinner in 2016. 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 *Falcon* by Helen Macdonald.

**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.

**November Meeting Scheduled for Third Tuesday.** The library's closure on Election Day has resulted in our November meeting being bumped to **November 21**. Please mark your calendars.



## HEMPSTEAD LAKE STATE PARK CONSTRUCTION AND DESTRUCTION

*Brien Weiner*

In the April 2017 *Skimmer*, Betty Borowsky wrote about the threats of development in Hempstead Lake State Park (HLSP). At the May general membership meeting, we presented a letter for members to sign protesting that development. In June, we posted on Facebook a notice of a public hearing on the environmental review of the plans for HLSP (the environmental review can be found at [https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/sites/default/files/crp/community/documents/Hempstead%20Lake%20State%20Park%20Project%20Information%20Document\\_6-16-17.pdf](https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/sites/default/files/crp/community/documents/Hempstead%20Lake%20State%20Park%20Project%20Information%20Document_6-16-17.pdf)). The following update is provided with the caveat that the situation is developing rapidly, with meetings scheduled in September (one will be just with Audubon and Seatuck Environmental Association representatives) and construction beginning in October. Please watch our Facebook page for further updates and opportunities to participate and make your voice heard.

The HLSP project is part of the Living with the Bay (LWTB) project, the original purpose of which was to mitigate flooding along the Mill River corridor from Hempstead Lake to Bay Park. The project is overseen by the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with a grant of \$125 million for Sandy recovery. The HLSP project, with a cost of \$34.5 million, has four components, not all of which serve flood mitigation or Sandy victims.



① *North Ponds:* The HLSP project would remove some wetlands and create others, install floatables collectors, and expand trails. Our objections include that the North Ponds currently provide valuable and rare

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•  IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE  
• BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.  
• **SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!**  
• • • • •



## BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

R. U. Abyrdar II with Sy Schiff

This is a great book to begin our new birding season, a sensational collection of expert birders sharing their “secrets” with both millions of newbies as well as more-experienced birders. Many birders are both smart and curious. So join us in a fantastic journey(s) — written by a wide variety of birders at different skill levels; a great blend of different senses of birding and their areas of greatest interest. The book is *Good Birders Still Don't Wear White*, edited by Lisa A. White and Jeffrey A. Gordon; illustrated by Robert A. Braunfield. I would hope that an awareness of birds and the experiences of a wide range of birders would help us find our own “way” as individual birders as well! (Now Sy takes over; about time.)



The original volume was an equally diverse compendium of birders, with a foreword by Peter Dunn as well. This latest edition follows the same format. It relies on short pieces from birders/artists/authors/professors/trip leaders/museum preparers, etc. So one gets a varied look at our hobby from many angles; many of these authors make a living from our hobby, as well.

The excellent introduction includes a section pointing out the fact that this is a hobby where personal truthfulness is the singular watchword for this endeavor. Those involved keep up this mantra. It extends to themselves and carries over to their peers. Also, the members of the fraternity help each other with locations and rare bird sightings. A spirit of cooperation prevails. There apparently is nothing like this anywhere else. (Our politicians could learn from this singular mantra.) It goes on to point out the people and stories included therein.

The one outstanding thread throughout is that the authors are all passionate about birding, and it shows as they write about their hobby and avocation, from their own point of view. Each small 2–4 page slice covers a different aspect of our hobby.

It starts with teaching children to bird and goes on to cover (in no particular order) birding in Central America, Mexico, as well as the U.S. and Canada. There are essays on pelagics, what it's like to prepare study specimens, museums, big year adventures, gulls, and on and on.

This is not a book that has to be read in order, cover to cover, as the subject keeps changing every few pages. So obviously one doesn't have to read the book in any particular order. I certainly didn't. As I went through the book, I skipped around. At the end of each article, there are “tips” covering useful things following up on the subject matter. Finally, each essay concludes with a short one-paragraph biography about the author. This is, obviously, of interest as well.

I could give a preview of the stories, but the introduction does that in a way probably better than I could. This book is a light, enjoyable read and would be the perfect

distraction on the train while commuting to work. It gives an interesting overview of aspects of our hobby from a perspective not generally otherwise available. Read it... and enjoy!!!

You will, I guarantee it! (R.U.'s contribution!)



## 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 (third Tuesday this 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. 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:

- Baldwin ..... Guido Giuliani, Veronica Pellegrino
- Bellmore ..... Francis Daly, Deborah Muldoon, Marilyn Rooney
- East Meadow ..... Joan Tawadros
- Farmingdale ..... Pinelawn Memorial Park
- Floral Park ..... Michael C. Bigler
- Franklin Square ..... Annette Monnone
- Freeport ..... Jean Calvin, Bernard R. Feigen
- Garden City ..... Marion Cassese, Geraldine De Leo, Edward Palkot
- Hicksville ..... Alexandra Anagnostakos, James White
- Levittown ..... Enid Gelman, Beth Rogoff Gribbins
- Long Beach ..... Ronald Rose, Ginny Sievers
- Lynbrook ..... Vivian Crowley
- Massapequa ..... Martin Silverman
- Massapequa Park ... Patricia Cammarota
- Merrick ..... Juanita A. Cameron, William & Patricia Fife, Nancy Lofaso, Susan Loheide
- Rockville Centre .... Dorothea Boitel, Laurie Kaplan
- Uniondale ..... Michele Rondon
- Valley Stream ..... Gloria Rosenthal



VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982



## MY FEATHERED FAMILY

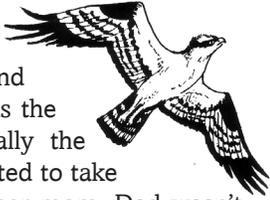
Jonathan Staller

I'm getting out of my car; it's 5:20 A.M. and the Ospreys are calling to each other. It's nothing new to me because there's an Osprey nest on top of the cellular tower at one of my state yards. I've been working at this DOT yard in East Hills one or two times a week for 14 hours a shift.

"Jonathan, stop looking at the birds and get back to work," my foreman would say. I'm known as "The Birdman" to my co-workers, a nickname that I'm proud of. I would like to share with you one of the proudest moments I've had with my Osprey family. They've been returning to this nest every year but last week (July 18th) was a day that the Ospreys extended an "open hand," or I should say, an "outstretched wing," and formally welcomed me not as a person but as one of their own.

I was on my lunchtime break; my time this time. There on top of the nest was the female. She was flapping her wings and screaming louder than usual. It was as if she wanted to take off but she wasn't getting enough lift. Flapping and flapping, screaming and shouting, but why?

All of a sudden from the east flew the mother Osprey. She circled the nest twice and then hovered just above her daughter. I watched this and realized that what I thought was the mother in the nest was actually the daughter. Daughter Osprey wanted to take her first flight and was calling her mom. Dad wasn't around because he left earlier to go fishing. In the nest making a softer call was another Osprey, smaller in size; a young male. He wasn't ready to fly yet. He was watching his sister and so was I.



Then the mother, who was hovering over the nest, made a sound and the daughter took off!!! They were flying side by side about 3 inches from each other's wing tips. Like two F-15's going into battle, they flew away from the nest. Fast but not flying upward, the two went. Then daddy came to join in on the excitement. The three of them flew together and they got higher and higher until they looked like dots in the wild blue yonder.

Later that day, around 6 P.M., the son joined the fun. He was flapping his wings in the nest. He was calling just like his sister did earlier. All day he had watched his big sister fly with mom and dad. Then he leaped up and his wings held the air, and he was off. He was free from the nest, airborne for the first time. He flew the same flight path that his sister did earlier that day. He wasn't flying solo either but with dad.

I've watched Ospreys before but this was the first time that I've experienced anything like I did that day. Mom and dad, sister and brother, and me. I got to see what I've watched on the Nature channel many times before. This time, though, I got to see it first hand, with my family of Ospreys.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STILL UNDER SIEGE – ACTION NEEDED!

Jim Brown

The Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agency tasked with enforcing the nation's environmental laws and regulations, is still under siege by budget hawks and climate change deniers in Washington. It is abundantly clear that the current EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, is seeking to shrink and cripple the agency he has been appointed to head. Prior to his appointment to his current post by President Trump, as the attorney general of Oklahoma, he sued the EPA numerous times in order to combat federal environmental regulations. Drastic downsizing of the EPA is threatened as we experience the results of severe "climate breakdown" (a term that has been applied to more accurately describe the nature of the "climate change" we are now beginning to experience firsthand) and the effects of widespread pollution linked to fossil fuels and other sources of environmental contamination.

The latest news related to the attempted decimation of the EPA concerns the attempt to reduce the number of agency employees. In April Congress set a cap for the number of employees at 15,000. Recently, buyouts and retirements have reduced the workforce and by October the number of employees at the EPA may be about 14,400. That number would put EPA's workforce level to what it was in 1988, under Ronald Reagan's presidency. A further additional 20% of the agency's workers, approximately 3,000 employees, are eligible to retire. At a time our nation needs to be going forward on solving environmental problems such as climate change and pollution, the federal government seems to be headed backwards.

South Shore Audubon members and friends are urged to take action by contacting New York Senator Chuck Schumer to oppose any cuts to the EPA. The Senate is key right now to protecting the EPA, and as Senate minority



leader, Chuck Schumer should be urged to fight Pruitt's and Trump's attempt to prevent the EPA from doing its important job for the environment. September 30th is the deadline for Congress to approve the EPA budget. Call Senator

Schumer at (202) 224-6542 and urge him to prevent any cuts to the EPA!

*Editor's note:* Back on August 8, cbsnews.com reported the following (see [www.cbsnews.com/news/report-federal-climate-findings-counter-trump-stance-climate-change/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/report-federal-climate-findings-counter-trump-stance-climate-change/)): "The president's own EPA head, Scott Pruitt, has set a record of undoing, delaying, or blocking over 30 environmental regulations since his February confirmation — that's more rollbacks than any other administrator in the agency's 47-year history over such a short period of time."

**BANDING BLACK SKIMMERS  
AT NICKERSON BEACH**

*Brien Weiner*

In August I participated in the banding of juvenile Black Skimmers at Nickerson Beach with John Zarudsky and staff from the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways, and staff from Audubon New York. Since this year's colony nested deep in the grasses, we did not know what to expect. The juveniles were difficult to see and it was difficult to gauge when most of them would be at a size large enough to band but too small to fly. Moreover, last year raccoons and feral cats predated 2/3 of our chicks, and we could band only a relatively few individuals that we chased and caught with what looked like butterfly nets that were taller than I am.

This year we tried the preferred method of corralling the juveniles in a pen of mist netting. We formed a cordon around the colony and slowly began walking toward the nesting area in the center, forming a human funnel into the pen. As if out of thin air, what turned out to be 164 juveniles emerged from the grasses, and as luck would have it, ran towards the pen. The staff on the perimeter kept outliers from escaping; not an easy task, since the birds are small, agile, and incredibly fast for having such small legs. Once the birds were in the pen, staff quickly closed off the open side and nailed stakes into the ground to make the net taut. Oddly enough, the adults, although initially agitated, moved off and settled down. This seemed contrary to their usual behavior of persistently flying at intruders or engaging in broken wing displays, but perhaps they were overwhelmed by the size of the operation.

While in the pen, the different personalities of the juveniles became evident. Some fought while others climbed

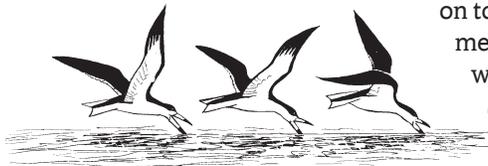
on top of the staff members sitting with them.

Some shied away from us; others

were merely still. Some squawked; some were quiet. The feisty ones made piercing cries, again displaying amazing power for such small creatures, and I was told on authority that these were females (make of this what you will).

We made an assembly line of scoop-up bird, bring bird to one of three banding stations, band one leg with metal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band, band other leg with local color band, record band numbers, and return bird to nesting area — all of which had to be done quickly in order to minimize stress on the birds.

At highest count, the Nickerson colony had approximately 975 adult and juvenile Black Skimmers, which is in keeping with, if not better than, traditional populations at that site. They make an amazing sight (and sound) that attracts birders and photographers from across the United States and Canada.



Banding the skimmers was a wonderful experience and the culmination of a magical summer as a shorebird monitor, observing Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, and Least and Common Terns, with their daily dramas and endearing chicks — and watching them grow and fledge. I urge SSAS members to volunteer in future summers, not only to help protect these at-risk species, but also to witness a spectacle that cannot be captured in words.

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*Explore the coast  
with the*  
**AMERICAN  
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

**FORT TILDEN HAWK WATCH** (Sat., Oct. 7, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Join naturalist Don Riepe for a hike along the beach, dunes, and woods at Gateway's Fort Tilden site in Breezy Point. Visit the hawk watch platform and see migrating Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Kestrel, Merlin, and Osprey, as well as Northern Flickers and songbirds. For information and reservations call Don (917) 371-8577; e-mail: don@littoralsociety.org. This is a partnership program with NYC Audubon and Gateway NRA. FREE.

**CHINCOTEAGUE WILDLIFE REFUGE / ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE** (Nov. 9–12). Enjoy 3 nights along the Virginia Coast and see the famous Chincoteague "ponies," Bald Eagles, plus many species of migrating and wintering raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Cost: \$395 incl. 3 nights lodging (double occ.; single room \$150 extra) at the Refuge Inn, a boat tour of bay and islands, a safari bus tour of backwater flats, guided hikes, and a welcome seafood dinner. For info & reservations call (718) 474-0896; e-mail: don@littoralsociety.org. Carpooling or van available. With NYC Audubon.

**WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP** (Sat., Nov. 18, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Join Don Riepe for a digital slide program on the many species of waterfowl in NYC during winter. Hike around the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge ponds to see ducks, geese, and other wintering birds. For info and reservations call Don (917) 371-8577; e-mail: don@littoralsociety.org. This is a partnership program with NYC Audubon and Gateway NRA. FREE.

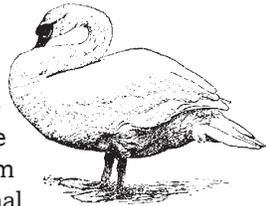
## REVISED MUTE SWAN MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Editor's note:* On September 6, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation released its third Draft Mute Swan Management Plan and announced three public hearings, starting with one in Hauppauge that will have occurred by the time you read this (the others are upstate in October). Please check our Facebook page and/or join our Yahoo! e-mail group to find out about things that happen too quickly for them to be publicized in the *Skimmer*. Here's the press release, with info on how to submit comments.

### *Plan Seeks to Control, Not Eliminate, Swans From New York*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the completion of a revised draft state management plan for Mute Swans. DEC made significant changes to the plan in response to public comments received over the past three years.

"Wildlife management can present challenges in trying to balance conflicting interests, such as when a beautiful bird can have harmful impacts," said Commissioner Basil Seggos. "DEC's revised draft management plan is responsive to the public's concerns about complete elimination of Mute Swans from New York, taking a more regional approach to management. The plan should limit the potential future impacts of Mute Swans on native wildlife as well as human enjoyment of the state's aquatic resources. At the same time, the plan emphasizes nonlethal management techniques, in direct response to public concerns about how and where management is accomplished."



The Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) is a nonnative, invasive species brought to North America in the late 1800s to beautify estates in the Lower Hudson Valley and on Long Island. Over the past century, swans that escaped or were released established wild populations in downstate New York that now number close to 2,000 birds. A separate population of Mute Swans became established near Rochester in the late 1980s, but past control efforts by DEC and other agencies have helped to limit their numbers. In August, DEC conducted a large-scale summer population survey to obtain a current statewide population estimate and will have the results tallied in the next few weeks.

Mute Swans compete with native wildlife for aquatic food plants and nesting areas. In addition, people are unable to use some water areas where the highly territorial birds nest. The goal of the draft plan is to prevent any further Mute Swan population growth to minimize impacts to native wildlife and habitats, as well as minimize conflicts with property owners and other outdoor enthusiasts. Property owners will be allowed to implement control measures where necessary to alleviate site-specific conflicts caused by Mute Swans.

The draft plan outlines DEC's strategies to contain and minimize the impacts of free-ranging Mute Swans. It describes a three-part, regionalized approach that emphasizes nonlethal management both upstate and downstate. The plan includes public education and outreach to inform the public about the status and ecological impacts of Mute Swans, efforts to foster responsible possession and care of Mute Swans, and strategies for managing feral Mute Swan populations.

Mute Swan populations in other states, such as Maryland and Michigan, have shown tremendous ability to grow from a relatively small number of birds to several thousand over time. DEC is committed to preventing this growth from happening in upstate New York. In downstate areas, the Mute Swan population has leveled off and overwhelming public support for allowing these birds to remain caused the DEC to reconsider its plans for swans in that part of the state.

Mute Swans are likely to remain in most areas of Long Island, New York City, and the lower Hudson Valley where they have been seen for many years, but DEC will encourage nonlethal population controls to protect local wildlife and habitats and will authorize control measures to ensure that Mute Swans do not interfere with human interests.

The draft Mute Swan Plan is available on DEC's Web site, along with an assessment of public comments received on previous drafts of the plan released in January 2014 and in March 2015. (*See [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7076.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7076.html). The original plan, supported by Audubon New York, called for the statewide elimination of Mute Swans. — ed.*)

In addition, the public is encouraged to provide written comments on the revised management plan by writing to: Bureau of Wildlife — Mute Swan Plan, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754; or e-mailing [Wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Wildlife@dec.ny.gov) (subject line "Mute Swan Plan"). The public comment period will close on December 3, 2017.



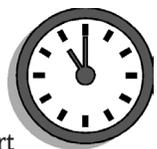
## JOINT FIELD TRIP TO AVALON NATURE PRESERVE

*Joanne Del Prete*

On **Saturday, November 11** at 9 A.M., SSAS will join Four Harbors Audubon Society at the 8-acre

Avalon Park & Preserve ([avalonparkandpreserve.org](http://avalonparkandpreserve.org)) in Stony Brook. There is also an optional walk with FHAS (the local chapter for this part

of Long Island) at 11 A.M. at the 24-acre Frank Melville Memorial Park ([www.frankmelvillepark.org](http://www.frankmelvillepark.org)), which is three miles away in East Setauket. Walks are free and run about 1–2 hours. Rain will cancel. Directions will be in next month's *Skimmer*. Contact me at [jdelprete47@optonline.net](mailto:jdelprete47@optonline.net) or 433-0739 with any questions; registration is not required.



## OCEAN FRONTIERS III

Michael Sperling

Over the summer, SSAS was contacted by Green Fire Productions, inviting us to co-host the Farmingdale State College showing and panel discussion of the film *Ocean Frontiers III*, a sequel to a film that aired on PBS. There's no cost to SSAS for co-hosting and having a table at the event (other than helping to publicize the event). Green Fire provided the next two paragraphs for the *Skimmer*.

New York's ocean use is growing rapidly, with massive new ships, soaring demand for offshore sand mining, and proposed wind energy development offshore. Our busy waters are also home to endangered whales and sea turtles, and support thriving fishing and recreation industries. It's more important than ever that we plan ahead for responsible ocean growth. Join us for a special screening of *Ocean Frontiers III*. This hopeful film explores the challenges at the heart of ocean conservation and development, presenting solutions from a range of people who are leading the way to a healthy and sustainable ocean future. Participate in the post-film conversation and learn how you can get involved. A panel of experts will be on hand to answer your questions.

Free and open to the public! Sponsored by Farmingdale State College Renewable Energy and Sustainability Center, SSAS, and many others. RSVP to save your seat at <http://bit.ly/OF3-Farmingdale>.

On **Wednesday, November 8**, there will be a light reception at 6:30 P.M., an introduction and the film at 7 P.M., and a panel discussion and audience Q&A on the new Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (see [www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan/](http://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan/)) at 8 P.M. Panelists will be from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Marine Resources, Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, Deepwater Wind, The Nature Conservancy, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, with Citizens Campaign for the Environment's Adrienne Esposito as moderator.

Other co-hosts joining SSAS include Long Island Sierra Club, The Safina Center, New York State Marine Education Association, SUNY Maritime College, Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Surfrider Foundation, New York Sea Grant, Save the Great South Bay, Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium, Gotham Whale, American Littoral Society, North American Marine Environment Protection Association, New York League of Conservation Voters, and Natural Resources Defense Council.

You can visit <http://ocean-frontiers.org> for more info.

OUR E-LIST [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\\_list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list)  
NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (844) 428-3826

## 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](http://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](http://ssaudubon.org).

- Sept. 24 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Oct. 1 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Oct. 8 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Oct. 15 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and Lido Preserve afterwards)
- Oct. 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 29 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
- Nov. 5 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 12 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

### 30TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The dates for our 2017–2018 Waterfowl Survey are as follows, rain or shine: **Saturdays, December 9, January 6, February 3, February 24, and March 24.** Members are welcome to participate in the surveys. If you are interested in spending a full or half day visiting up to 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, call SSAS's Bill Belford at 385-1759.



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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Sperling

Hello everybody and thanks for reading the *Skimmer*, which I started editing way back in 1990 after six years as a little-known chapter member. In June I became SSAS's president (my second stint) while continuing as editor; I would have said hello last issue but the editor didn't give me any space!

As an all-volunteer chapter with a modest budget, SSAS depends on its members to step forward with their ideas, time, and energy in order to maximize how much it can accomplish. You're invited to e-mail me at [mssperling@optonline.net](mailto:mssperling@optonline.net) with suggestions and/or to let us know what you would like to do to help our organization.

