

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 50, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2020

## NEXT MEETING

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
**TIME:** 7:30 P.M. to About 9:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Freeport Memorial Library  
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)  
**SPEAKER:** George Gorman, Jr.  
**TOPIC:** Energy and Nature Center at Jones Beach

Our next meeting will feature a presentation by the Regional Director of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Presentation (OPRHP) regarding the current construction project at the Jones Beach West End 2 parking field. The program will include info, slides, and answers to questions. Join us!

As we reported in the February 2019 *Skimmer* (after a Freedom of Information Law request resulted in an invitation to our speaker's office), OPRHP, in partnership with PSEG Long Island, Long Island Power Authority, and New York Power Authority, is building an Energy and Nature Center that will supersede the deteriorated Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center in flood-prone West End 1. As part of the project, which was announced by Governor Cuomo in November 2018, the 218.5 acres to the west are being designated as a Park Preservation Area, 12.6 acres of the West End 2 parking field are being converted to vegetated dunes, and the westernmost entrance road is being replaced by vegetation.

After nearly 40 years of employment at LI's state parks (starting with three summers as a seasonal worker in Jones Beach that led to becoming its Director of Operations and then Director of Operations for the LI Region), Chip Gorman (nicknamed for a bird's sound by his mother) became Regional Director for LI's 35 state parks last year.

**Parking Lots.** In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a 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.

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

## THE FUTURE OF HEMPSTEAD LAKE STATE PARK

*Brien Weiner*

On December 13, 2019, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) issued a revised Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hempstead Lake State Park (HLSP) project with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), even though the revised EA is not significantly different from the inadequate original EA. The HLSP project will still destroy woodlands and wetlands and put birds at risk, and create the potential for failure of a high hazard dam and for contamination of the entire Mill River watershed. GOSR released the EA during the holidays to minimize public awareness and participation in the 30-day public review period that closed on January 13. After responding to comments, GOSR plans to request release of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and begin tree removal in early March. SSAS prepared comments and sent them to all involved agencies and our elected officials. NYC Audubon cosigned our comments and Sierra Club offered to send their own comments in support. HUD and GOSR rejected requests for an extension of the review period and a public hearing; however, we will continue to make our case to the involved agencies, the public, and if necessary, the courts. The following is an abridged version of our comments; the complete comments and a history of the HLSP project can be found at: <http://www.ssaudubon.org/conservation-policies-and-positions.asp>.

The revised EA does not meet the requirements of a FONSI. Serious deficiencies in the EA require the preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and public participation in the design process to ensure the health and safety of our environment and communities.

**1. Tree Removal.** The EA claims that NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations require 1100 trees to be removed from the dams; this claim is questionable. First, the regulations apply to a well-maintained dam; the inspection reports in Appendix F confirm that the HLSP dams are not well maintained. Second, vegetation is removed to prevent a root system

from creating seepage paths that weaken the dam and cause it to fail. The EA states that woody material would be removed to 6 inches below ground, and stumps that would damage the stone face would be left at 4 inches above ground. These procedures still leave a root system, and one that will decompose and be more likely to create seepage paths. Third, as stated in LKB Consulting Engineers' 2014 dam inspection report, the Hempstead Lake Dam may be buried in a layer of soil, in which case trees would not need to be removed for inspection or repairs. Fourth, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' inspection report for the Hempstead Lake Dam in Appendix E recommends that "larger hardwood trees should not be removed but should be inventoried and their condition monitored. If a tree dies, the area around the tree should then be monitored for possible seepage." LKB's 2014 report notes that removing mature trees can cause dams to fail: "Removal of multiple large trees can cause the water level through the dam to rise suddenly, destabilizing the downstream slope."

**2. Impact on Birds.** The EA is elusive on when trees will be removed; several sections of the EA state that there will be no impact on birds because trees will be removed November 1 to March 31, and several sections state that the impact on birds will be mitigated April 1 to October 31, when trees are removed from the dams. The EA also claims, "To avoid impacts on resident raptor species, raptor surveys would be conducted prior to and during construction by qualified OPRHP biologists to address the possible presence of raptors, including the great-horned owl. If an active nest were encountered, it would be left in place and protected until young hatch and depart, if feasible. If not feasible, the USFWS Field Office and/or NYSDEC Regional Wildlife Office would be contacted for assistance to determine the appropriate plan of action" (p. 145).

Birds will be put at risk for the following reasons: Most of the trees to be removed are on the dams (1100 of 1799 trees); therefore most of the tree removal may take place April 1 to October 31 — during spring and fall migration and spring and summer nesting season. HLSP is also a well-known hot spot for early migrants in March. Further, if a raptor nest is found, such as a Great Horned Owl nest, the EA does not state whether protection includes sufficient habitat around the tree with the nest. Leaving one tree, or even a few trees, will not prevent stress to the birds if they are surrounded by construction and deprived of habitat for prey and cover. Nests would be doomed to failure.

Another unmitigated significant impact is that "Waterfowl and waterbird use of the NE and NW Ponds may be diminished from an increase in human disturbance related to reduced buffer distances and increased human activity along trails" (p. 146). HLSP is a designated NYS Important Bird Area for wintering waterfowl. Further, the EA claims that loss of mature upland forest will

be mitigated by "increase in wetlands and water quality improvements" (Appendix A, p. 7) and "meadows that would replace woodlands" on the dams (EA, p. 122). These are false equivalencies; different habitats support different wildlife.

**3. Loss of Wetlands.** The "increase in wetlands" mentioned above and at various points in the EA doesn't exist. The EA engages in fuzzy math and more obfuscation, referring to increases in wetlands and offsets, and at the same time admitting to a net loss of 2.76 acres of wetlands. According to the DEC, often more wetlands need to be created for those that are lost to ensure mitigation.

As with types of habitat in general, the EA often doesn't distinguish between types of wetlands, and not all wetlands are suitable for all species. Further, there is no guarantee that any of the wetlands will be suitable for the birds that use them now after they are altered. The EA claims that loss of wetlands will be mitigated by improvement in water quality, but besides the false equivalency, that the water quality will be improved is questionable. Water quality testing for the North Ponds indicates that the existing wetlands currently provide significant water quality improvements.

**4. Dam Safety.** The Hempstead Lake Dam still does not meet DEC standards for overtopping in the revised EA. The dam will withstand only 39% PMP (Probable Maximum Precipitation), when DEC standards require 50% PMP. Every inspection report in Appendix F highlights the inadequate spillway and need for a functioning low-level drain. For example, the DEC emphasizes the seriousness of these deficiencies in its 2018 inspection report: "The low-level outlets are still not operable. As you are aware, the structure's spillway does not have adequate capacity to pass the design flood for a high hazard dam. Such an event will result in the overtopping of the dam and its embankments. Since overtopping of dam embankment may result in its failure, it is important that the inadequate spillway capacity be addressed. This is a high hazard dam which means failure of this dam can result in loss of life and serious economic damage."

Moreover, inspection reports in Appendix F state that the Emergency Action Plan for the Hempstead Lake Dam, in case of failure, is not up to date. Along with the inadequate spillway, this deficiency results in "the creation of a hazard to human health," a significant impact that requires the preparation of a full EIS under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) [Section 617.7(c)(1)(vii)].

**5. Floatables "Catchers."** The EA indicates that the floatables catchers have a capacity for a one-year storm, which means mundane rain events. With more intense storms, which may become more frequent with climate change, the floatables catchers will be overtopped, and the floatables will flow right over the catchers. In addition, the netting will allow organic matter to pass through, but also small pieces of trash, microplastics, and toxins.



The EA does not adequately consider that more could be done upstream to prevent trash from entering the watershed at its source, but allows bureaucracy to trump environmental health. GOSR needs to work with the municipalities and local high school upstream. Destroying wetlands and woodlands for ineffective floatables catchers is unacceptable.

**6. Soil and Sediment.** As with the wetlands mitigation, the EA employs more fuzzy math, cooking the books, with regard to soil contamination; it averages contaminated samples with uncontaminated ones to claim that no appreciable contamination is present. This is negligence when “the excavated soil would be used to construct the wetland and berms within the ponds” (p. 76).

More egregious is the admitted potential of the HLSP project to contaminate the entire Mill River watershed without any mitigation plan if such an event occurs: “Approximately 2,473 CY [cubic yards] of wetland cut (dredging or excavation) would be required in the NE and NW Ponds. Dredging would increase turbidity and expose nutrient-rich sediments. If disturbed, these sediments could cause the contaminants to become suspended in the water column of NE Pond, which could cause the contamination to spread to other areas of NE and NW Ponds, Hempstead Lake State Park, and farther downstream throughout the Mill River Watershed. Such disturbance presents a potential impact of exposing aquatic biota to acute toxic effects associated with potentially contaminated sediments suspended in the water column” (p. 120).

The EA has no emergency response plan. Along with the inadequate spillway and outdated emergency response plan for dam failure, watershed contamination results in “the creation of a hazard to human health,” a significant impact that requires the preparation a full EIS under SEQRA [Section 617.7(c)(1)(vii)].

**7. Segmentation.** GOSR attempts to avoid the issue of segmentation by jettisoning many proposed Living With the Bay (LWTB) projects and claiming the remaining ones could advance independently, subject to funding. The EA fails to adequately consider cumulative impacts on the Mill River watershed. Segmentation is also a violation of SEQRA. The segmentation suggests that GOSR mismanaged the LWTB projects and time is running out on the grant to complete them. GOSR eliminated the Coastal Marsh Restoration that would have been our primary defense against storm surges and was ranked #1 for prioritization in the LWTB Resiliency Strategy. GOSR is depending on projects prepared by other entities, not only State Parks for the HLSP project, but now also Nassau County for the Long Beach Sewage Transfer, which was recently added as an LWTB project. These changes were made in violation of HUD’s requirement of Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)



participation in designing and implementing LWTB; the CAC was not included in the discussion of, and objects to, these changes, which fail to meet project goals.

As with the HLSP project, the Long Beach Sewage Transfer is a misuse of funds that were originally intended to mitigate flooding for Sandy victims and create a blue-green corridor along the Mill River. And in further contradiction of the goals of LWTB, projects at Lister Park and East Rockaway High School will harden one side of the Mill River and paradoxically exacerbate flooding for residents on the other side. LWTB has been degraded in purpose and coherence.

**8. Conclusion.** The contradictions and deficiencies of the HLSP EA reveal a negligence in project design that could have dire consequences for our environment and our communities. These consequences include the loss of 1799 trees, 2.76 acres of wetlands, and unique and valuable habitat for birds when two-thirds of them are at risk of extinction; and the potential for catastrophic flooding and watershed contamination. The HLSP project requires a full EIS with further assessment, viable alternatives, and public participation.

Hempstead Lake State Park is one of the last and largest areas of open space in Nassau County. Its trees capture carbon and clean the air; its wetlands filter pollutants and clean the water. The North Ponds area is one of Nassau County’s last wild areas and should be preserved as such. The HLSP project, with its destruction of woodlands and wetlands, will defeat its own goals of using nature-based measures of flood mitigation and increasing access to nature by removing nature from the equation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BIRD WALKS**  
Joe Landesberg

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, but call Bill Belford at 385-1759 for the first three dates listed below. 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 in recent years are at [www.ssaudubon.org](http://www.ssaudubon.org).

- Jan. 26 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Feb. 2 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and Lido Preserve afterwards)
- Feb. 9 Jones Beach Coast Guard Station
- Feb. 16 Massapequa Lake (meet at Merrick Rd.)
- Feb. 23 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Mar. 1 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)

\*\*\*\*\*  
NAT’L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (844) 428-3826  
\*\*\*\*\*

**BOOKS FOR BIRDERS**

*R. U. Abyrdar II and Sy Schiff*

Well, it's now the middle of winter, February, already! Sy and I have the perfect book for this time of year, *Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season* by Roger F. Pasquier!! Yes, birds also find it hard to survive when it's COLD outside! Just like with humans, birds find it difficult to do the things they were doing in spring and summer with ease (maybe)! Birds that don't run off to Florida, or another warm place, find that surviving becomes somewhat difficult, so this book gives us some perspective on their difficult task! They, too, have problems with the COLD weather. B-r-r-r!! So, let's get closer to the fireplace and see what Sy has to say about this unusual book!

This is not a book about wintering birds. It's a comprehensive look at the technical and scientific avian literature of habits, movement, and biology of birds. It covers the time when they finish breeding to the time they return to repeat. It includes a 32-page bibliography, so it's filled with tons of examples. In this book, winter is the entire period when birds are not creating more birds.

The book starts with the origins and movements of migration on a global scale. The major global migration systems are described with a section on seabirds that roam after breeding. This is followed by a section on molt. Birds time their molt either before or after arriving at the wintering location, depending on the species. The reasons for the individual choice are discussed, with numerous examples from the literature covering all families and continents.

Birds don't just move out after breeding. They prepare before going, depending on where and how far they will go. Feeding disciplines prior to migrating are discussed, again with illustrations. The importance of refueling along the way for some species and the places they stop at are covered. Much of this is interesting, as it describes fallout locations; a boon for birders.

The contrast between breeding and winter ranges is discussed, and differences of behavior from species that do either long- or short-range migrations. Once on the winter range, spatial and social organization are covered plus interactions with residents already on site. Survival in winter is the next topic. Here, two things are important — food and predators. Feeding strategies and predator avoidance go hand in hand.

Winter can't end without anticipating spring. And then there is the preparation for departing, with illustrations and examples. Over-summering of some birds on the winter range with more examples finishes up. Then, a summary chapter on bird conservation covers habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, pesticides, and overharvesting of species. Finally, a chapter on climate change completes the book.



The amount of detail and the myriad examples are mind boggling. It covers in detail what the scores of researchers have been doing in avian studies right up to the book's publication. It makes for a slow read. But patience! Depending on your point of view, it can be a bore or fascinating to see what is going on. Sometimes, it can be both and in the same paragraph. This book tells you everything the researchers have studied. So, by reading the book, you'll know everything that's been found out, up to this time, about birds, excluding when they are not making more birds. An interesting read.

Come on, Sy, join me in front of the fireplace! Let's all RELAX... and ENJOY this unique book!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE NAVY GRUMMAN PLUME AND MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE**

*Michael Sperling*

The October 2016 *Skimmer* (posted on our website) had my article about a NYSDEC consultant's Remedial Options Report (ROR); the cheapest option included using Massapequa Creek to dispose of treated waste from the well-known plume whose southward spread from Bethpage had reached a five-square-mile area. Last June, several members of SSAS attended a public meeting and we subsequently submitted comments on the Feasibility Study that had followed the ROR.

This past December, the Amended Record of Decision was released at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8431.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8431.html). It says that "contaminated groundwater withdrawn from four of the 24 extraction wells will be pumped to a second centralized treatment plant near the headwaters of Massapequa Creek... capable of treating approximately 2,000 gallons per minute (2.8 million per day). Following treatment, this water will be used to augment flow in Massapequa Creek... Groundwater modeling will be performed during the remedial design program to assist in finalizing the... amount of treated water that will be discharged to Massapequa Creek." SSAS continues to be concerned that the one-acre treatment plant could be illegally built in Massapequa Preserve and that the projected 200 years of possibly quadrupled water flow, with lower salinity and colder temperature, would adversely affect Massapequa Preserve's plants and wildlife.

\*\*\*\*\*

Phone: (516) 931-1445  
 Fax: (516) 931-1467  
 E-Mail: [lenny@konskerandcompany.com](mailto:lenny@konskerandcompany.com)

**LEONARD G. KONSKER**  
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Konsker and Company, LTD  
 990 Westbury Rd., Suite 103  
 Westbury, New York 11590

## WE MUST NOT FORGET WHAT WE'VE LOST

Jim Brown

Recent academic work by Lizzie Jones, Ph.D. candidate at Royal Holloway, University of London, has highlighted the phenomenon known as "shifting baseline syndrome (SBS)." She describes SBS as "a sociopsychological phenomenon describing an ongoing, yet unperceived tolerance for environmental degradation. Without experience or knowledge of past environmental conditions each new generation interprets more degraded environmental conditions as the new norm. The true extent of biological change is therefore often underestimated." Basically what happens is that "historical information is... lost as each generation formulates their own new baseline based on only their own biographical experience."

Shifting baseline syndrome was originally coined in 1995 by Daniel Pauly at the University of British Columbia in Canada, but Ms. Jones has studied the issue empirically. She notes that older people, for example, tend to have a better idea of the actual number of birds present when they were young than do younger adults. She recommends that older adults share their knowledge of past wildlife abundance and biological diversity with the young, so as to combat the impact of accepting the current overwhelmingly bleak situation as normal or acceptable. Ms. Jones warns that "if we don't learn about nature from an early age, and we don't go and experience it and recognise species, then [our collective amnesia] could just get worse and worse."

There are examples of positive shifted baselines. Lizzie Jones offers the example of the Red Kite in Britain, which was globally threatened in the early 1900s but was successfully reintroduced and is now flourishing. In the United States we have the examples of the Osprey and the Bald Eagle, two raptor species that were very scarce at one time but have rebounded due to active conservation measures taken to bring them back from virtual extinction. We happily see the large numbers of these birds as the new normal. Many young people, especially young birders who pay attention, may now even take these successes for granted.

Nevertheless, the trend is decisively toward negative shifted baselines. We are living in the Era of the Sixth Great Extinction — biodiversity decline, along with climate change and habitat degradation, reign supreme. This period, noted for the extinction of many plant and animal species and even basic habitat types, is also termed the Anthropocene Extinction, expressing the fact that the extinctions are ultimately caused by human behavior. Change has been rapid. Older people still living remember more birds, more insects, and more biological diversity in general than what is experienced at present. A recent joint study undertaken by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the American Bird Conservancy, published this past September in the journal *Science*, has shown that

the number of birds in North America has declined approximately 30% since 1970. The study focuses on the number of birds, not on the possible extinction of species, which is a separate but related issue. The number of birds in the U.S. and Canada has dropped from 10.1 billion in 1970 to about 7.2 billion now. Factors explaining this insidious decline in the numbers of birds include habitat loss, predation by cats, pesticide use, and collisions with windows. Climate change and overdevelopment are directly responsible for habitat loss. Kenneth Rosenberg, Cornell University conservation scientist and lead author of the Cornell/ABC study, asserts that "people need to pay attention to the birds around them because they are slowly disappearing... One of the scary things about the results is that it is happening right under our eyes. We might not even notice it until it's too late."

We are indeed subject to "negative shifting baseline syndrome." We often forget about the relative abundance of wildlife we experienced in our youth — from flying insects hitting our automobiles' windshields to birds in our forests and at our feeders. We must guard against this loss of memory, this amnesia of time. We should devote ourselves to saving what's left and restoring what has been lost. Only if we are able to accomplish these goals will a better world be possible.

## NATIVE PLANTS WORKSHOP

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center's staff has organized a "Using Native Plants in the Landscape" workshop at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford for both landscape professionals (who can earn continuing education credits) and the general public. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3 from 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. The talks will be "Plants for Birds, Ecosystem Health, Biodiversity" by Joy Cirigliano; "Sneaky Blinders: Bugs, Diseases and Cultural Issues That May Bother Your Natives" by Tamson Yeh; "Native Woody Trees — What Are Good Native Alternatives to Commonly Used Species?" by Dave Golon; and "How to Create an Aesthetically Pleasing, Healthy Native Habitat" by Rusty Schmidt. To register, go to <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/U16SsmW7RUajJGiGepnCqw2> (cost is \$40) or look for a link at [ny.audubon.org/trsanctuary](http://ny.audubon.org/trsanctuary).



**Syosset Plaza**  
625 Jericho Turnpike  
Syosset, NY 11791 (516) 226-1780

[www.wbu.com/syosset](http://www.wbu.com/syosset)  
FB: Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset NY

*Wild Birds Unlimited*  
Nature Shop

BIRDSEED-FEEDERS-BIRDBATHS-OPTICS-GIFTS  
GREETING CARDS-WALL ART-TILLEY HATS  
SILVER FOREST EARRINGS-GARDEN ACCENTS



## SCOBE SQUAWKS

### State Birds: Wild, Wacky, Weird, and Wonderful

Frank Scoblete

They come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Some are plain; some are spectacular. They are state birds. But underneath it all is cutthroat competition among some states.

Alaska named the Willow Ptarmigan as its state bird. Why is obvious because this bird can survive deadly winters and even has feathers on its legs. You might say it is the legging bird. It has bright colors and is a favorite of hunters in the British Isles; one of the reasons Alaska would have fought in the Revolution if it were a colony then.

Arizona has a dotted bird, the Cactus Wren, as its herald, but it sounds awful when its calls hit the airwaves. Quite a lot of Arizona is stark and so is this bird. Hard to tell males apart from females; but it's so hot in Arizona that I don't think the birds have the energy to care.

California has a rather dull bird. I guess Californians didn't want the dull birds to feel bad because they aren't as beautiful as the beautiful birds, so they picked the subdued California Quail. That's progressivism for you. This bird looks as if it can survive earthquakes, mudslides, forest fires, homelessness, and high taxes. It is a true Californian.



Delaware has a domesticated multi-plumaged bird, the Blue Hen Chicken, and is easy to find in order to eat after you've marveled at its colors. Barnyards are great habitats for it. Don't kill it with a gun, as you'll then be eating pellets.

Georgia named the Brown Thrasher, a so-so-looking bird, as its peach. Don't quite know why, but then again we're talking about Georgia which is rarely on our minds.

Hawaii is our most recently recognized state and a paradise to visit, but its bird does not match the state's beauty. The creature is somewhat yuckaii. Meet the Nene or Hawaiian Goose.

Idaho has the Mountain Bluebird as the state bird but it also named the Peregrine Falcon as its state raptor. The Bluebird is a stunning blue. Of course, like all songbirds it fastly flitters so you must have that "songbird patience" to get a good viewing. But make it quick because falcons eat Bluebirds.

Perhaps the prettiest thing you'll see in Mississippi is its state bird, the Wood Duck. Its other bird is the Mockingbird. That bird it shares with Arkansas, Florida, and Tennessee.

Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio are at war, as they all picked the Cardinal as their state bird. I see many Northern Cardinals at my feeders and they are beauties. However, I do not see any Kentuckians.

Louisiana picked the Brown Pelican. When Louisiana floods, these birds feel happily at home.

Montana and Nebraska have a thing for the Western Meadowlark, a yellow bird that doesn't seem strong enough to hang out in these cowboy states.

Frank's website is [www.frankscoblete.com](http://www.frankscoblete.com). His books are available from [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) (where you can support SSAS), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), as e-books, and in bookstores.

### 32ND ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

Bill Belford

The remaining waterfowl survey dates for the 2019–2020 season are **Saturdays, February 8 & 29, and March 28**. Our group visits the various ponds in southern Nassau County from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park. Volunteers can help out for a few hours or the whole day. Call Bill Belford at 385-1759 for more information and/or to volunteer.

### HOLIDAY PARTY AT TACKAPAUSHA

Marilyn Hametz

Many thanks to all the SSAS volunteers at the Tackapausha Children's Holiday Party: Gail and Jim Brown, Helen Demas, Larry Gumbs, Rich Kopsco, Anne Mehlinger, Wendy Murbach, Laurie Raisher, Tom Schmelke, and Brien Weiner. Thank you also to our members who came with children and grandchildren. I hope everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. If you have any comments about or suggestions for this Annual Holiday Party, please let me know.

### JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in nearly real time. Last year, more than 220,000 people joined the count to create a snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You're invited to participate and it's free! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count (**Friday, February 14 through Monday, February 17**), simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world.

If you're not already registered with eBird or the Lab, you must create a free online account to enter your checklists; go to <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>. In 2019, New York birders reported 181 species, including 120 in Nassau County. Visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) to search the lists from previous GBBCs by place and/or species.

**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.



115551828 0007

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

WWW.SSAUDUBON.ORG



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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

*Americans Committed to Conservation*



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

**DATED MATERIAL**

**2019-2020 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND  
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Michael Sperling, President & <i>Skimmer</i> Editor.....	221-3921
Brien Weiner, VP & Conservation Co-Chair.....	220-7121
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer & Field Trips.....	536-4808
Alene Scoblete, Recording Secretary.....	596-3239
Guy Jacob, Director (6/22).....	312-3348
Richard Kopsco, Dir. (6/22) & Brookside Preserve.....	825-6792
Bill Clifford, Director (6/21).....	631-991-7989
Frank Scoblete, Director (6/21).....	596-3239
Betty Belford, Director (6/20).....	385-1759
Paul Stessel, Director (6/20).....	208-6374
Bill Belford, Information & Research.....	385-1759
Betty Borowsky, Education.....	764-3596
Gail Brown, Hospitality.....	608-1446
Jim Brown, Conservation Co-Chairperson.....	608-1446
Joanne Del Prete, Trip Leader.....	433-0739
Betsy Gulotta, College Scholarships.....	546-8841
Marilyn Hametz, Publicity.....	799-7189
Wendy Murbach, Membership.....	546-6303
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming.....	426-9012

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

*Option 1.* You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$20 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

*Option 2.* To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 from these dues unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household.

➔ **Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.



**Donations to SSAS are always welcome!** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Zip+4)

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chapter Code R15 (South Shore Audubon Society)*

