

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 51 NUMBER 1— SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 2020
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: ONLINE
SPEAKER: Chris Paparo
TOPIC: Birding with the Fish Guy



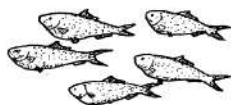
Join Zoom Meeting:
Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88206309521?>
Phone: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 882 0630 9521
Password: 824902

You can click on links to the Zoom meeting from the SSAS website under Next Monthly Meeting or from the SSAS Facebook page.

Learn about Long Island's feathered friends in this multimedia presentation. Find out what Long Island birds can be observed close to the shore. Learn details about wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors, as well as where one can go to observe each of them.

Born and raised on Long Island, Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the Island for over 30 years. As the owner of Fish Guy Photos, he is a wildlife photographer, writer, and lecturer who enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the Island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing, and the outdoors led him to obtain a BS in Marine Science from LIU/Southampton and he currently manages the new Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University.

An award-winning member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the New York State Outdoor Writers Association, Paparo is a freelance writer for several wildlife related publications. Although his work tends to focus on marine life, everything in the natural world is fair game.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Due to the continuing risk of COVID-19, the Freeport Memorial Library has cancelled all in-person programs indefinitely. Our general membership meetings will be held on Zoom for the foreseeable future. The status of our birdwalks has not yet been determined.

For those who continue birding, with its benefits for physical and mental health, we recommend following National Audubon Society guidelines: wear a mask, keep a minimum distance of 6 feet from other people, bring hand sanitizer, and do not share binoculars or spotting scopes.

Please watch our website or follow us on Facebook or call 516-220-7121 for the status of birdwalks, meetings, and events.



A MOMENT OF REFLECTION... AND DETERMINATION

The following is an excerpt of a message from Audubon CEO David Yarnold.

Black lives matter. Our nation is in turmoil because our governments, our institutions (including Audubon), and private individuals haven't done nearly enough to act on that fundamental truth.

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery should still be alive—our deeply flawed and unequal criminal justice system must change. Christian Cooper's life never should have been threatened for asking someone to leash a dog in a bird sanctuary. Black Americans should not face lower odds of survival and prosperity across every measure of wellbeing in this country, but they do.

Our experiences are varied, but they're nearly universal: we're shaken, angry, frightened, resolved, despondent. And some of us may be seeing the faintest glimmer of hope that change will finally come.

The full message can be found here: <https://www.audubon.org/news/a-moment-reflectionand-determination>

BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

R. U. Abyrdar II and Sy Schiff

Oceanic Birds of the World: A Photo Guide
by Steve N.G. Howell and Kirk Zufelt

(Editor's note: this book makes a good companion as we explore the shore with Chris Paparo.)



If you like looking at pictures of flying birds, this book has it all. Since all of the birds depicted are seen at sea and in the air, this is how they are presented. The individual objects have been selected, manipulated and extracted from their background and presented together on the page with others in taxonomic order. Almost all are presented in side view showing either the top or the bottom of the bird. The pictures are great. Most of the species are not seen from Eastern North America, so almost all are new for local birders.

Ocean birds are wide ranging with many not stopping to rest. Because of the remoteness and location of where these birds are seen (the open ocean), the groups have not been extensively studied. They are also very much alike. Only recently have many been given a closer look. As a result, what was thought to be a single species has turned out to be several. And the process is still ongoing. The book discusses the taxonomy and the ongoing situation while trying to point out what will occur as more work is done. The potential splits (or just ongoing subspecies) are described and pictured.

This is not a field guide. Each species is shown in many poses, and described carefully. But how to differentiate similar species is not especially given. The birds compound the situation by coming in dark and light morphs with immatures differing from adults. The species differences are subtle. You have to look at the descriptions and photographs and do your own analysis. And the birds are a moving target seen from a bobbing boat. Pelagic birding requires a slew of experienced birders on hand who can help in the ID. Still, many rarer birds are only actually confirmed by subsequent analysis of photographs taken.

So, what to make of the book. The first thing of interest is that these are pictures of real birds. Bird books have idealized and clear cut pictures. These photographs are not what the bird books show. They are rough and the feathers can be mottled. And while sharp, they are not the clean, crisp pictures of the field guides. They look like what you are going to see. And, the use of the book to ID a species by itself is probably not enough. But, the taxonomy discussions are illuminating and the photos are great. This is a great book for viewing and perhaps learning.




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

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



CLIMATE WATCH

The following is an excerpt from an Audubon press release on May 14, 2020.

The journal Ecological Applications published a final version of a study from National Audubon Society scientists demonstrating that climate change is causing a measurable shift of birds' ranges during winter and breeding seasons. Years of bird observations gathered by hundreds of volunteer participants in Audubon's Climate Watch community science program confirm projections made earlier by Audubon that rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns will likely result in the colonization of new territories by North American birds.

"Climate change is disrupting hundreds of bird species, and thanks to community scientists all across the country, we can visualize these disruptions in real time and plan conservation efforts accordingly," said Sarah Saunders, PhD, quantitative ecologist at Audubon and lead author of the study.

SSAS thanks Bill Belford for serving as our Climate Watch coordinator and all those who participated. Climate Watch is suspended for 2020 due to COVID-19, but will return in 2021.



To learn more or become involved, visit <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>



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 to preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



LIKE US! <http://facebook.com/SSAudubon>



ECO-TIPS: WISDOM ON WASTE

At the suggestion of member Franklin Rothenberg, the Skimmer will be introducing a new feature: tips for greening our daily routine from the wisdom of our members. Frank kicks us off with two suggestions:

For those who pay bills by mail, pay more than one month at a time to save stamps, envelopes, paper, and time.

Use junk mail envelopes for shopping lists or notepaper. (Editor's note: also use the junk mail itself if it is single-sided.) Then recycle.

Send your creative ways to save to ssaseditor@gmail.com or to SSAS Eco-Tips, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Murbach

- Bellmore Amanda Ham
- Cedarhurst..... Alex Dillon
- East Rockaway..... Vanessa Walthall
- Farmindale Kathleen A. Verbil
- Levittown..... Ellen Insana
- Lynbrook Sadiah Mohammed
- Merrick Cheryl Bennett, Toni Marie Feldis
- Rockville Centre.... Stratos G. Kantounis, Randall Sorscher



THANK YOU

SSAS thanks the following donors for their generous contributions to the Michael Sperling Memorial Fund:

- Four Harbors Audubon Society
- Vicki Goldstein
- Kevin G. Rhodehouse

SSAS thanks the following donors for their contributions beyond our membership fee to help us continue our mission:

- Cheryl Bennett
- Jay Diaz
- Linda A. Ferraro
- Stratos G. Kantounis
- Michael Parris
- Gloria Rosenthal



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



TWO VICTORIES

Brien Weiner

We thank our members not only for your dues and donations, but also for your participation in our conservation efforts. And with all the challenges and work to be done, it is a pleasure to report on two victories.

Williams Pipeline. On May 15, 2020, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) denied a permit for the Williams Pipeline, which would have carried fracked gas under New York Harbor to Long Island. The DEC found that the construction of the pipeline in an ecologically sensitive area would have an unacceptable negative impact on water quality. Further, the DEC found that the pipeline was unnecessary and incompatible with the goals of the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to achieve 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

SSAS joined a coalition of organizations that fought long and hard on this issue and we thank our members who signed petitions, sent comments, called Cuomo, and attended rallies. Unfortunately, National Grid is pursuing a new pipeline in Brooklyn and more fossil fuel infrastructure on Long Island, so the fight continues.

Woodmere Coastal Conservation District. The Town of Hempstead and Villages of Lawrence and Woodburgh collectively established and unanimously approved the Woodmere Coastal Conservation District to protect the 118-acre Woodmere Club from development. At the same time, Nassau County accepted a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow View Estates, a proposed subdivision of 285 residences, on the same property. The developers have threatened a lawsuit but the Conservation District has science and overwhelming community support on its side. SSAS contributed testimony to that support, confirming the return of birds once the Club was closed and the value of coastal wetlands in reducing storm surges, filtering pollutants, and providing habitat. We hope that it will become a site for birdwalks and teaching environmental stewardship.



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

LEONARD G. KONSKER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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



JOIN US IN THE TACKAPAUSHA GARDEN

Louise DeCesare

With the help of a National Audubon Collaborative Grant and assistance from Tackapausha staff, South Shore Audubon Society volunteers continue to improve and beautify the front gardens at the Tackapausha Museum in Seaford. By continuing to introduce a variety of local native plants to the garden, we hope to attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife native to the area so they may thrive.

SSAS volunteers are vital to this "work in progress." We weed, prune, and remove invasive plants, while we arrange and tend to new plantings. By creating an attractive environment that invites the public to enter and enjoy the garden, we also offer them an opportunity to learn how native gardens help support local biodiversity. We continue to add signage that identifies native plantings in the garden and also have printed informational material available for the public.

Our volunteer corps meets on the first Saturday morning (9:00 – 11:00 am) and the third Tuesday afternoon (3:00 – 5:00 pm) of each month (weather permitting). Come join us to help maintain and further improve the garden.

If you would like more information and/or to join our garden volunteers, please contact Louise DeCesare, phone 917-548-6974 or email Lmdecesare128@gmail.com.



BIRD IS THE WORD

Frank Scoblete

They don't just fly over your house; they have flown into our vocabulary too. Not often for good reasons; not often for bad reasons.

In England, young women are often referred to as birds. In the United States and Canada, young women are often called chicks. Women who have passed their peak are often referred to as old hens or old crows.

If someone keeps repeating something over and over, we can refer to that person as a parrot. If your acquaintance is a stuck up, classless idiot, you might refer to him or her as a popinjay or a peacock.

Someone who is considered stupid is often called a bird brain. However, someone who is smart can be called a wise old owl. But if someone is scared, you call that person a chicken or chicken shit. If someone thinks of himself as sexually desirable, he pictures himself cock of the walk.

People who are crazy can be called loons or cuckoos. Or maybe they just go to Florida in the winter and are called snowbirds. Someone who uses cocaine is often called a snowbird as well. Someone who lives in Florida and also uses cocaine is called a dodo.

Throughout our country, we have many supposed health experts who are really just quacks. Quacks are the magpies of medicine as they are stealing your money selling bird poop. Be an early bird and don't let them ruffle your feathers.

If you go to quacks, you'd better be eagle-eyed and watch them like a hawk so they don't steal from you. If they do steal from you, then go to the police and sing like a nightingale about their thievery. Maybe these people will be arrested and put in a birdcage so they can't fly the coop.

The character of Mr. Potter in my favorite movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, was a vulture and certainly deserved the title of old coot. He was probably pigeon-toed too. He was a man who ate like a pig because he could not actually eat like a bird because, in reality, birds eat a lot! I don't know if Mr. Potter liked to wet his beak from the expensive wines he enjoyed drinking.

I really wished George Bailey, the lead character in the movie, didn't give a hoot about Mr. Potter but he acted like a silly goose by trying to borrow money from Mr. Potter. Yes, Mr. Potter was always feathering his nest with other people's money. That man was a bad egg.

By the end of the movie George Bailey was flying like a bird when he found out how many friends he had and, hopefully, all the viewers truly hoped that Mr. Potter would wind up with a severe case of thrush.

Frank Scoblete's website is frankscoblete.com. His books are available from Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Kindle, e-books and at bookstores.



DON'T FEED THE WATERFOWL

SSAS frequently receives questions about feeding waterfowl. Many people enjoy feeding ducks and geese, but artificial feeding is actually harmful to waterfowl, according to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). While enthusiast websites debate whether to feed waterfowl bread or grain, science tells us that all artificial feeding is detrimental. The following excerpts are from the DEC webpage Stop Feeding Waterfowl (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7001.html>).

"Waterfowl at artificial feeding sites are often found to suffer from poor nutrition. In natural settings, waterfowl seek and feed on a variety of nutritious foods such as aquatic plants, natural grains, and invertebrates. Many of the items commonly used to feed waterfowl (bread, corn, popcorn, etc.) are low in protein and are very poor substitutes for natural foods.

At artificial feeding sites, competition for each scrap or kernel is high. Some ducks and geese (usually the youngest) are unable to compete for handouts.

Visible symptoms of poor nutrition and advanced stages of starvation are often seen at artificial feeding sites. For example, waterfowl may have drooping wings or may lose their ability to fly.

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation



DATED MATERIAL

WWW.SSAUDUBON.ORG



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

2019–2020 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Brien Weiner, President & Skimmer Editor	220-7121
Jim Brown, VP & Conservation Co-Chair	608-1446
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer & Field Trips	536-4808
Mike Zito, Recording Secretary	507-9419
Guy Jacob, Director (6/22) & Conservation Co-Chair	312-3348
Richard Kopsco, Dir. (6/22) & Brookside Preserve	825-6792
Chris Braut, Director (6/21)	631-834-6070
Bill Clifford, Director (6/21)	631-991-7989
Betty Belford, Director (6/20)	385-1759
Paul Anderson, Programs	504-8711
Bill Belford, Information & Research	385-1759
Betty Borowsky, Education	764-3596
Gail Brown, Hospitality	608-1446
Louise DeCesare, Native Plants	917-548-6974
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)