

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 51, NUMBER 2 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2020

## NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, October 13, 2020  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.  
PLACE: ONLINE  
SPEAKER: Chris Paparo  
TOPIC: From Plankton to Whales: Why our local waters are worth protecting

Join Zoom Meeting:  
Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83863573876?>  
Password: 749951

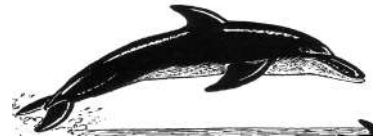
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Password: 749951

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

With endless stories and photos of fish kills, harmful algal blooms, oil spills, beach closures, etc. filling our daily newsfeeds, it appears that our environment is in a horrific state of "Doom and Gloom." Although we do face many environmental challenges, this constant bombardment of negativity creates a lack of enthusiasm among local communities when it comes to protecting our environment. Regain your enthusiasm for protecting our marine environment by learning about some of the fascinating marine life that inhabits the waters of Long Island.

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. Our bird walks have also been cancelled due to the difficulty in maintaining social distance with potentially large groups on narrow trails.

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 bird walks, meetings, and events.



**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.

## ECO-TIPS: WISDOM ON WASTE

This month's first Eco-Tip comes from Alvin Friedman, CCC, CFSP and founder and first President of the South Shore Audubon Society.

"As a 92-year-old Veteran, I have loads of time on my hands. I am retired 'CHEF'! Usually once a day, I take a supplement Ensure drink. I thought, what a shame to discard the empty bottle. What can I use this container for? I decided to make squeeze bottles out of empty containers. If you make a hole in the cap to receive a plastic straw, make the hole just large enough to fit the straw, about 1 1/2 inches into the cap and 1 inch out of the cap. Just put a little bit of white glue around the cap and now you have a great squeeze bottle that can be used for a great many items in the kitchen or workshop.

I have made many squeeze bottles and given them away, and people just love having them."

Thank you, Mr. Friedman, for sharing your Eco-Tip, reducing plastic waste, and above all, making us the chapter that we are today!

Our second Eco-Tip was sent anonymously. "For those who use a dehumidifier, don't throw out the water -- you can use it to water your plants!"

Readers who want to share their creative ways to save can send them to [ssaseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ssaseditor@gmail.com) or to SSAS, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

## JOIN US IN THE TACKAPAUSHA GARDEN

*Louise DeCesare*

As Summer comes to a close, SSAS Tackapausha garden volunteers have been rewarded with the fruits of our hard labor -- a garden awash in color hosting pollinator bees, monarch butterflies, a few American Goldfinches and even a nest of baby rabbits! Come help us tend the garden or just visit as we enter into our Fall season. We meet the first Saturday (9:00 am – 11:00 am) and the third Tuesday (3:00 pm – 5:00 pm) of each month, weather permitting. For more information, contact Louise DeCesare, phone 917-548-6974 or email [Lmdecesare128@gmail.com](mailto:Lmdecesare128@gmail.com).

If you are interested in learning about the native plants in the garden, SSAS has produced a brochure available in the museum. The brochure lists plant names along with photos, plant descriptions, their benefit to wildlife, and instruction on care. The museum is open with timed entry from Thursday through Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Tickets are available at [tix.com](http://tix.com).



## MICHAEL SPERLING MEMORIAL

SSAS is working on a memorial for our treasured President, Michael Sperling, who passed on February 5, 2020. We thank those who have generously contributed. If you would like to make a donation, please make out your check to South Shore Audubon Society, and write Michael Sperling Memorial Fund on the memo line. Mail your check to P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your donation is tax deductible.

### THANK YOU

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

- Bruce and Mary Armour
- Jim and Gail Brown
- Judith Elise Hoyer
- Eric and Laurie Raisher
- Lois Riss
- Mary Jane Russell



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

- Joseph King
- Frank A. Labatto
- Franklin Rothenberg

### SSAS MEMBER ALERT: NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE

*Wendy Murbach*

In order to make it easier for SSAS members who join SSAS only to know when to renew their membership, and to save our chapter some money on sending out postcards to expiring members, your Board of Directors has voted to start the membership year in September for all SSAS only members, so that everyone renews at the same time.

It being September at the time of this writing, SSAS only members should renew now. You can do that by sending \$20.00 for one year's membership to: SSAS, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520.

If you have renewed already in 2020, you will be covered from September 2020 until August 2021. If not, please send us your dues and please tell us that you are renewing.

Members who belong to National Audubon need to look at your magazine subscription to see your renewal date. The above notice does not apply to you.

NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (844) 428-3826

## **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, the South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please join us at the next online meeting from 7:30–9:00 P.M., normally on the second Tuesday of the month, to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment’s health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

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 September Skimmer are:

- Bohemia..... Phyllis Frazier
- North Woodmere..... Ruth Hauptman
- Rockville Centre ..... Frank A. Labatto
- Seaford ..... Joseph King
- Yaphank..... Darlene J. Moore



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OUR E-LIST [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\\_list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list)



## **HEMPSTEAD LAKE STATE PARK UPDATE**

*Brien Weiner*

Many readers may have seen our Facebook post last April when the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) began removing 1041 trees from the South End of Hempstead Lake State Park (HLSP) on Earth Day. It made a mockery of their mission to connect people with nature, as it was also the beginning of peak spring migration and nesting season for birds, as well as the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area, when open space was needed more than ever for our physical and mental health.

Nevertheless, OPRHP and the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) were permitted to move forward with the project that we have long opposed (see <http://www.ssaudubon.org/conservation-policies-and-positions.asp>) because of the failure of our State Environmental Quality Review Act and Department of Environmental Conservation to protect the environment as they should. They allow the developer to serve as the lead agency in the environmental review—in other words, they allow the fox to guard

the henhouse. Further, the Article 78 process to challenge agency decisions favors the agency and was prohibitively expensive for SSAS.

Fortunately, the largest area of tree removal, the downslope of the Hempstead Lake Dam, was replanted with native grassland habitat rather than mowed lawn, thanks to the efforts of the Seatuck Environmental Association. The native plantings will diversify and enrich HLSP as an oasis for migratory birds in a sea of suburbs where grassland habitat is lacking. Although HLSP will not have enough grassland habitat to support breeding birds, even small areas can help migratory birds, especially in the fall when the seeds on the grasses and forbs mature.

Advocacy by Seatuck, SSAS, and others reduced the total number of trees removed from 3100+ to 1799. We also succeeded in protecting most of the mudflats and freshwater wetlands of the Northwest Pond, which provide rare and valuable habitat for an abundance and variety of shorebirds, wading birds, and dabbling ducks.



Construction on the Education and Resiliency Center at Field 1 began in August. SSAS agrees with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that the over \$7 million in Sandy recovery funds allocated for the building would have been better spent on flood mitigation projects, and that a repurposed building on the Mill River flood plain would have better served the community as a center for Mill River stewardship and emergency response.

An Article 78 challenge to the HLSP project was filed on August 25 by the Sierra Club LI Group and the Concerned Citizens of the Mill River Flood Plain, and a Temporary Restraining Order to stop work on the project was issued on September 3. The lawsuit focuses on GOSR’s failure to provide an emergency spillway for the Hempstead Lake Dam, which could result in overtopping, dam failure, and catastrophic flooding downstream during an extreme storm event. The lack of an emergency spillway was the cause of dam failure in Edenville, Michigan in May. The lawsuit also objects to the segmentation of the HLSP project from the Living with the Bay (LWTB) project and failure to consider cumulative impacts on the watershed. It further objects to the disturbance of wetlands and woodlands to install floatables catchers and sediment basins in the North Ponds. SSAS research and comments on the HLSP project were incorporated in the lawsuit.

Living with the Bay is a suite of projects to mitigate flooding along the Mill River, funded with a Sandy recovery grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. GOSR recently abandoned the Coastal Marsh Restoration at Bay Park that was the top ranked project in the LWTB resiliency strategy, and claimed that the permitting process could not be completed before the grant deadline. They reallocated the funds to constructing a sewage pipe from Long Beach to the Bay Park Sewage

Treatment Plant, from which sewage will be transferred to the Cedar Creek outfall pipe.

The Long Beach to Bay Park sewage pipe will run across Pearsall's and Black Banks Hassocks, which support many birds of conservation concern such as the rapidly declining Saltmarsh Sparrow. GOSR's Environmental Assessment (EA) states that most construction will take place November to March to avoid migration and nesting seasons, nesting deterrents will be used, Osprey platforms will be relocated, and wetlands will be restored post-construction.



The CAC objected to GOSR's abandonment of Bay Park marsh restoration, which would have attenuated storm surge, filtered pollutants, and provided habitat.

The LWTB project also includes installing floodwalls and a fish ladder at Smith Pond, and removing both invasive and native vegetation from the pond. Further downstream, bulkheads will be installed at East Rockaway High School that will cause flooding of the unprotected homes on the opposite side of the Mill River. The original vision for Living with the Bay was a blue-green corridor with room for the river, but under GOSR's mismanagement, LWTB deteriorated into a hodgepodge of gray infrastructure projects that will exacerbate flooding during storm surges.

Nevertheless, GOSR issued Findings of No Significant Impact for the segmented LWTB projects and did not complete a full Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Assessments can be found at <https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>.

The Sierra Club and Concerned Citizens of the Mill River Flood Plain produced a short video about protecting HLSP and the Mill River, which, at the time of this writing, can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7H1-I32DjY>.

For those who want to help fund their lawsuit, donations can be sent Sierra Club Foundation, 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1250, Oakland, CA 94612. Checks should be made out to Sierra Club Foundation, with Long Island Hempstead Lake State Park in the memo line.



### BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

*R. U. Abyrdar II with Sy Schiff*



**What's that Bird: A Beginner's Guide**  
by Joseph DiConzanzo

This small pocket-sized book depicts 150 of the more common birds (mostly eastern US), arranged in a manner to help you learn how to identify them and incidentally learn how to be a bird watcher. The publisher is DK, noted for low-key lavishly illustrated books for a general audience. This book is full of lovely small bird photographs with short descriptive text.

After a short introduction, the book begins with "Identifying Birds." Size, Shape, Color and Markings (mainly adult

males), Range and Seasons, Behavior, followed by Parts of Birds are covered. Each section includes short descriptions with a half dozen photographs to clarify the text. The author gives bird walks for The American Museum of Natural History, so is a good pick to author this book.

The book is divided into 5 groups with a final section called Bird Gallery (I'll get to this momentarily). The groups are Close to Home, Woodland and Forest, Open Country, Water and Waterside, and Coast and Sea. Each group starts out with an explanatory page with a landscape photo and a number of small bird photos acting as a partial index for the section.

The breakdown for each section is particularly useful in separating birds you're not likely to see in a given location from those that could be there. This along with the Gallery described below pretty much gets you on to a common bird you might be looking at. Not all the birds are covered in this short compilation. However, where a "similar" bird to what is shown is seen, it's mentioned in the text. Both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers are mentioned but only one is pictured. So it forces you to look beyond the pictures and read the text (very helpful to the learning process).

The Bird Gallery is a second listing of the same birds in the previous groups. Here they are arranged by color and then size within each color. Each section has a dozen photos with a page number referencing the bird. It's a strange mixture. For example, under Black and White, it starts with Bald Eagle and ends with Downy Woodpecker. Other similar color groups are Gray; Gray Backs; Streaked Gray Backs; Gray-Blue Backs; Gray and White; Gray, Black, and White and so on. It's helpful and confusing.

For a birder, the groupings are strange. Is the choice perfect -- no. Is the choice helpful -- yes. In any event, looking through to try to match up what you're looking at should definitely get your interest. This is a pretty book (DK books are always pretty) with a lot of info that will help a novice get going or hopefully help a homeowner or casual stroller ID some birds they run across. Not for a birder, but an extremely nice small beginner's book.



### SCOBESQUAWKS

"Birdman" Robert Stroud Ain't Burt Lancaster

*Frank Scoblete*

Robert Stroud was a convicted murderer, later to become a famous ornithologist and author, who was known as "the Birdman of Alcatraz" for his work in diagnosing bird diseases. A movie starring the great actor Burt Lancaster was made about Stroud's life which was -- take a guess -- titled The Birdman of Alcatraz.

Lancaster was an actor who simultaneously exuded strength and gentleness. He was also quite handsome and female fans were devoted to him. Just like Cary Grant, Lancaster had been a circus acrobat and his body and



movements showed this even as he aged. His portrayal of Stroud was brilliant and earned him an Academy Award nomination as Best Actor. His was a riveting performance.

Except Burt Lancaster's performance had little to do with the real Robert Stroud. The real Stroud was like the Japanese bird monster Rodan to a pretty songbird who was Lancaster's Stroud. Burt Lancaster's Stroud was indeed strong in many ways and did challenge authority when it could be shown (in the film) that such authority was abusive.

In real life Robert Stroud was a psychopathic murderer, an unapologetic and vicious pimp, and a lover of chaos and struggle. He constantly fought and badgered the people he met and in prison he was no different; in fact, he might have been worse. You could say he was the Mike Tyson of prison fights, physical ones and verbal ones. His face was the sneer, not the smile.

Stroud didn't like authority, that's true; he also didn't seem to like anyone at all. But he loved to argue and fight with fellow prisoners, with the prison guards, and with the administrators. He even murdered a prison guard! This was not a Burt Lancaster type of man; women would not be fans of his. Homicidal pimps are certainly not good role models.

Stroud spent most of his prison career in solitary confinement. The other inmates hated him; they also feared him because of his mercurial personality. You never knew when an explosion would occur and they occurred often enough to keep everyone near him on their toes. In fact, had people near him been birds, they would have taken to the air.

Yes, we do owe this man a "thank you" for his groundbreaking work with birds. His books have been a great help for veterinarians and birders too; but we shouldn't let a movie whitewash the awful facts. The prison psychiatrist labeled him a psychopath and indeed he seems to have been one.

The movie was good but the man was for the birds. Visit Frank's web site at [www.franksoble.com](http://www.franksoble.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.

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**CAN WE AFFORD RICH LUXURIANT LAWNS?**

*Franklin Rothenberg*

Edible plants that are growing in my backyard include amaranth, clover, dandelion, lambsquarter, pusley, ribwort plantain, violet, and wild strawberry. My favorite plant is ribwort plantain, as it is both edible and medicinal, being a great itch reliever if rubbed on insect bites. This hardy "weed" (any plant that is not wanted) has probably attracted more herbicide than any plant other than dandelion, and where does all that weed killer end up? It settles into our Lloyd Aquifer from which we get our drinking water.

Fungicide, herbicide, insecticide, and synthetic fertilizer are all used to give us lush luxuriant lawns, but at what cost? Additionally, copious amounts of municipal chlorinated water are required. Chlorine is produced from table salt. Nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer find their way into our bays and cause damage, including brown tide.

My lawn requires no watering or additives. It is both lush and edible. It may not be all grass, but it's ground cover.



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**NEW YORK NEEDS GREEN TRANSIT**

*Guy Jacob*

The Green Transit, Green Jobs Bill Package addresses two of our urgent dilemmas: our current high levels of unemployment and our climate change crisis. The Green Transit bill (A9046/S7349) requires every public transit authority by Jan 1, 2029 to purchase only new zero-emission buses as they replace their buses. The Green Jobs Bill

(A10559/S8548) could encourage job growth in New York State's transportation manufacturing sector and provide a just transition for diesel-bus-reliant jobs through retraining programs.

Without doubt, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which passed in 2019, could benefit from companion legislation that would move its comprehensive clean energy goals forward. Given the broad responsibilities and the slow pace of the Climate Action Council, which is tasked with defining specific plans to implement the goals of the CLCPA, the Green Transit, Green Jobs Bill Package is just the right legislative boost we need. NYS is moving forward with offshore wind and solar initiatives, much of which were set even before the CLCPA was passed. However, we do not have precise goals for the transportation sector, which contributes 36% of New York's emissions.

This legislation would have significant local and state-wide benefits. The projected annual cost benefit associated with improved health by switching from diesel buses to electric buses is approximately \$150K per bus. That's very good news for all New Yorkers with compromised immune systems and preexisting conditions. Environmental justice and low income communities that are adjacent to major highways would particularly feel the ease brought by cleaner air.



Moreover, the mere presence of an electric bus fleet would motivate individuals to purchase electric vehicles for their own personal use. Cornell University Professor Robert Frank, in his recently published book entitled *Under the Influence: Putting Peer Pressure to Work*, demonstrates how widespread behavioral contagion truly is in American culture. Consumers mimic what they observe around them.

What we do right here in NYS also has national implications. New York State public transportation authorities, including the MTA, make up the majority of bus procurements in the country. Where New York goes, the country follows. Moreover, as with the CLCPA, because of our strong elected leadership, New York is in a unique position to lead by example. If we continue to get out boldly in front, New Yorkers can truly show the rest of the country how to envision and bring to fruition a clean energy future.

What we do right here in NYS has international implications as well. According to a recent *New York Times Magazine* article entitled *The Great Climate Migration*, "If governments take modest action to reduce climate emissions, about 680,000 climate migrants might move from Central America and Mexico to the United States between now and 2050. If emissions continue unabated, leading to more extreme warming, that number jumps to more than a million people." Climate migration is never by choice; it's a disruptive act of desperation by people who are compelled to do so for fear of their very lives. These are not migrants who desire to leave their homeland; these are refugees who suffer despairing hardships often related to

the consequences of drought, and they are forced to flee to survive.

Now more than ever before, we must act locally and think globally. Now more than ever before, we need strong NYS legislative leaders to take the kind of substantial stand that can motivate legislators around the globe to stand with them. We therefore urge the New York State Legislature to pass the Green Transit, Green Jobs Bill Package.

**ACTION ALERT:** Contact your NYS Assembly member and your NYS Senator about co-sponsoring and actively supporting the Green Transit bill: A9046/S7349 and the Green Jobs Bill: A10559/S8548.



## ATLAS CORNER: THE BREEDING CALENDAR

*by Julie Hart, NY BBA III, Project Coordinator*

Now that the first year of the Atlas is winding down, it's a good time to reflect on the breeding calendar. As we cycle through the seasons each year, so changes the breeding calendar. Some birds nest in the cold, dark winter, while others await the last hot rays of summer. Hopefully your foray into atlasing has helped tune you into the seasonal changes that birds use to tell them when it's time to start nesting. Journey through a year of atlasing.

Great Horned Owls are our earliest reliable nester, starting their courtship duets as early as November and beginning nesting in January. In the first few months of the year, other large raptors like Bald Eagles and Common Ravens initiate nesting, followed by the smaller corvids and owls. Urban birds that can nest near warm heating vents and other artificially warm locales also start nesting while there is still snow on the ground, birds such as House Sparrows, European Starlings, and Rock Pigeons.

Most of our forest residents, like chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and some of the woodpeckers, start nesting in April and can survive early cold snaps by holing up in their cavity nests. At the same time, our forests and fields are enriched by the drumming of Ruffed Grouse, the peenting and twittering aerial displays of American Woodcock, and the whirring of male Spruce Grouse as they perform their flutter-jumps to attract mates.



Things start to heat up in late April and the first part of May, literally. The soil thaws, rivers come to life, and the leaves start unfurling. Some of the larger, hardier waterbirds start nesting as soon as the waters thaw, such as swans, Canada Goose, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, and Sandhill Crane. Coastal areas of Long Island warm up sooner than the rest of the state, and early returning birds take advantage, such as American Oystercatcher and Clapper Rail. Our trusty harbinger of spring, the Red-winged Blackbird, can be heard from every patch of reeds in the state by now.

As spring advances, insects begin to emerge, which means there is more food available to support returning migrants. By mid-May, the migrant hawks, swallows, wrens, sparrows, and flycatchers have returned, and warbler migration hits its peak. By the end of the month, rails, nightjars, and thrushes fill out the avian soundscape. Males arrive first to stake a claim to the best territories so that when females return a week or two later they can quickly scout out a good place to build a nest. They get down to business gathering nesting material right away.

In the first couple weeks of June there is a lot of bird song filling the air, but it slowly diminishes as they lay eggs and start incubating. This is followed by a lull in the breeding season, kind of a calm before the storm, that breaks in late June and early July. There is a rush of chatter, not of bird song, but of call notes between pairs communicating to each other as they frantically try to find enough food to feed their young. We as atlasers feel this rush, too. It's a glorious time to be out watching bird behaviors. Birds are so busy collecting food to quiet their incessantly begging young, that they pay little notice to us interlopers.

And then it's suddenly done. We are left with a feeling of loss as we watch the birds we've gotten to know so well disperse or congregate in large flocks. At the same time, some birds are just getting started! Just as the warblers waited until there were insects to return north, and just as the hawks timed their nesting to coincide with maximum fledgling songbirds to feed their young, other species were waiting for conditions to be right for raising their young. Cedar Waxwings were waiting for bountiful summer fruits while American Goldfinches were waiting for thistle, aster, and sunflower seeds to be available. Red and White-winged Crossbills, if they have dropped down for a visit from Canada, wait to take advantage of soft, fresh cones on the trees. Birds with second and third broods can also be seen feeding young into late summer.

Fall is pretty quiet for atlasers. Birds migrate south, the leaves change color, and mammals get ready to hibernate. But one bird, the Barn Owl, has been known to nest in every month of the year!

Before you know it, the days shorten, the first snow falls, and Great Horned Owls delight us with their evening duets and it starts all over again. Now that you have witnessed a full breeding calendar firsthand, you can enjoy atlasing in 2021 with an even deeper appreciation.



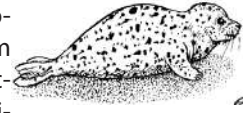
Published in New York Birders, July 2020, by the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.

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**ENVISION PLUM ISLAND REPORT**

Soon after the federal government passed a law in 2008 that triggered the planned sale of Plum Island at public auction, the Preserve Plum Island Coalition was formed

to fight for the preservation of the island's critical natural habitats and unique history, along with the adaptive re-use of the animal disease research center. SSAS joined the Coalition.

Over the past two years, the Coalition and 160 stakeholders from diverse fields embarked on a structured planning process called Envision Plum Island, and have developed a vision and plan for the island's future with broad local and regional consensus. The report, as well as actions you can take to help preserve Plum Island, can be found at [www.preserveplumisland.org](http://www.preserveplumisland.org).



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**MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT:  
 VICTORY AND ACTION ALERT**

The following is a message from the National Audubon Society.

In a major victory for Audubon and other conservation groups, a federal judge has overturned the administration's unprecedented attack on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and restored its longstanding protections for birds. The court ruled that the MBTA does protect birds from industrial hazards, also known as "incidental take", upholding the most effective bird protection law of our time.

But our work is not yet done.

While we are very encouraged by the unambiguous district court decision, which validates our argument that the administration's policy is in clear violation of the MBTA, the government has could still appeal the decision. If they do so, we will continue to strongly defend the MBTA in court. At the same time, they could still move forward with a proposed regulation that would essentially reinstate this unlawful and harmful policy.

To secure the MBTA from ongoing and future attacks, Congress must pass the Migratory Bird Protection Act (MBPA). There is still time for the House to vote on the MBPA this year, and you can help by letting your Representative know you support the MBPA and share the ask with your chapter members.

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**ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:  
 SIGN THE PETITION!**

The Department of the Interior finalized plans to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development -- a disastrous move for people, wildlife, and nesting birds like the Tundra Swan, Arctic Tern, and American Golden-Plover. The National Audubon Society joined a coalition of Alaskans, Indigenous Peoples, wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists, scientists, and more -- asking for the long term protection of the Arctic Refuge. You can sign the coalition's petition at [www.articrefugedefense.org](http://www.articrefugedefense.org).

**South Shore Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 31**  
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