

South Shore

# Skimmer



Volume 54, Number 2 • South Shore Audubon Society • Winter 2024

## Birds *Are* Dinosaurs!

by Betty Borowsky

There have been extraordinary advances in paleontology over the past few decades. One of the most interesting may be how much has been learned about dinosaurs: their diversity, physiology, and evolution. At the same time, paleontologists have learned so much about the evolution of birds. These two areas of investigation have converged to suggest that birds did not evolve from dinosaurs — they *are* dinosaurs. There are some fossil dinosaurs that have almost every feature that birds have; very similar skeletons, beaks, thermoregulation; and even feathers. So many new bird-like dinosaurs have been discovered that taxonomists can organize them into a compelling sequence that shows the changes to modern birds.

Up until very recently, birds were set apart from the other living vertebrates (animals with backbones) because they are the only modern species that have feathers and true flight. But we now know that many dinosaurs not only had feathers, but they had flight

as well. In fact, flight evolved in dinosaurs at least three times!<sup>1</sup>

The true identity of birds would have been discovered long ago if we had only had some dinosaur DNA. Over the past 50 years, our understanding of how specific species are related to each other has frequently been changed upon comparing the DNA of similar species.



Scavenging Turkey Vulture by Alene Scoblete

DNA is the gold standard of modern systematics. Now, DNA is a very stable molecule, and scientists have been able to sequence samples that are two million years old.<sup>2</sup> But that's not old enough to tell us what specific dinosaurs survived the meteorite strike 66 million years ago to become our modern birds

(*Jussasic Park* notwithstanding).

Nevertheless, the discovery of so many new dinosaur species has provided such a weight of circumstantial evidence that birds are just modern dinosaurs, that some taxonomists propose demoting birds from their own class (there are now five main classes of living vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) to a new order, the dinosaurs (birds), within the reptile class.

Fossils show that birds split off from their closest dinosaur ancestors about 150 million years ago. Then, about 66 million years ago a mass extinction occurred all over the planet when a giant meteor (between 6 and 9 miles wide) struck the earth near Mexico. Most animals and plants were exterminated, but the dinosaur ancestors of modern birds survived. And diversified. There are approximately 10,000 bird species alive today. ♦

1. <https://tinyurl.com/5b36p34x>

2. <https://tinyurl.com/stcatvht>

### Community Science Volunteer Opportunities

*All levels of experience welcome!*

**Join the Christmas Bird Count in Southern Nassau**

**Saturday, 12/30**

[audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count](http://audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count)

**Join the Great Backyard Bird Count**

**Friday, 2/16 – Monday, 2/19, 2024**

[birdcount.org/participate/](http://birdcount.org/participate/)

### Coming Attractions

*Virtual Programs on Zoom at 7:30 PM:*

**Whales in Our Waters with Marianne & Artie • 12/12**

**Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks with Joan Collins • 1/9**

**Winter Landbirds in the Coastal NE with Shai Mitra • 2/13**

*See page 4 for details.*

**South Shore Skimmer**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Alene Scoblete  
alene.scoblete@gmail.com

**Managing Editor:** Frank Scoblete  
frank.scoblete@gmail.com

**Contributors**

- Betty Borowsky
- Jim Brown
- Russ Comeau
- Louise DeCesare
- Guy Jacob
- Joe Landesberg
- Brien Weiner

**Table of Contents**

**News**

- Bird Counts, Front Page
- Editors' Messages pp. 2 & 4
- Solar Eclipse, p. 4

**Columns**

- Borowsky Report, Front Page
- On the Record, p. 3
- Insights, p. 5
- Looking Up, p. 5
- Through Guy's Eyes, p. 6
- Going Native, p. 7
- Wise Owl, p. 7

**Events**

- Bird Walks, p. 2
- Programs, p. 4

**Of Interest**

- Ads, p. 7
- Injured Wildlife Hotline, p. 2
- Mission Statement, p. 2
- Social Media, p. 7
- Membership/Renewal Form, p. 8
- Who's Who @ SSAS, p. 8

SSAS

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
SSAudubon.org

The mission of the 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. ♦

# Bird Walks

by Joe Landesberg



Joe Landesberg

Join us on our Bird Walks! **To register, text me your name and contact information at 516-467-9498.** Bird Walks are free of charge and start at 9 AM. No walk if it rains or snows. Text me regarding questionable conditions.

**January Sundays**

- 1/7: Hempstead Lake State Park (Meet in parking lot #3)
- 1/14: Jones Beach Coast Guard Station (Meet in parking area)
- 1/21: Mill Pond Park (Bellmore/Wantagh | Meet at gazebo)
- 1/28: Massapequa Preserve (Meet at east end of train station)

**February Sundays**

- 2/4: Point Lookout/Lido Preserve
- 2/11: No Walk
- 2/18: No Walk
- 2/25: Hempstead Lake State Park (Meet in parking lot #3)

**March Sundays**

- 3/3: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens
- 3/10: Massapequa Lake (on Merrick Road)
- 3/17: Mill Pond Park (Bellmore/Wantagh | Meet at gazebo)
- 3/24: Norman J. Levy Park & Preserve
- 3/31: No Walk | Happy Easter!

**For future Bird Walks, check our website & Facebook page:**

SSAudubon.org/bird-walks • Facebook.com/SSAudubon

**Directions:** SSAudubon.org/directions.asp



**Volunteers for Wildlife**  
Wildlife Hospital & Education Center

Rehabilitating injured wildlife since 1982.  
**Injured Wildlife Hotline: (516) 674-0982**  
volunteersforwildlife.org

**A MESSAGE TO OUR READERSHIP**

Editor-in-Chief Alene Scoblete and Managing Editor Frank Scoblete bid the *South Shore Skimmer* readership a fond farewell. This — our 10th issue — is our final one, as we are moving on to other projects. We hope that our issues have inspired you to rise to calls to action, convert your property to native plants, and spend many an enjoyable hour outdoors birdwatching.

# On the Record: Mike Farina

*An Interview by Alene Scoblete*

Along with a host of duties as Conservation Biologist at the Marine Nature Study Area (MNSA) in Oceanside, New York, Mike Farina provides opportunities for young people and students to have hands-on involvement in MNSA's daily activities, prompting many of them to continue in the field. Mike is a frequent presenter at SSAS and was the recipient of SSAS's Elliott Kutner Conservation Award in 2014.

## **How did you discover the great outdoors?**

MF: As a child my family owned property in the Catskills. I spent most of my weekends there from elementary school until my last year in college when we sold the property. It played a major role in introducing me to the natural world and the outdoors, from exploring the woods to taking pictures on my Canon ae1. That little trailer located on 80 acres of land played a major role in guiding me in a career towards biology. I also had relatives who lived in the Adirondacks that added to those experiences.

## **What inspired you to follow a path into conservation biology?**

MF: Although my title at the Town of Hempstead is Conservation Biologist, I was trained as a wildlife biologist. My studies focused on biology, behavior, the management of animal populations, and their interaction with their environments. It incorporated land management plans and ideas to optimize habitats for different groups of animals. As a conservation biologist I continue to focus on those same themes and topics but also aim to protect species from excessive rates of population decline due to biological interactions with their environment and with humans.

## **What are some of your daily activities at MNSA?**

MF: The MNSA is a unique location — a 52-acre saltmarsh preserve and education site. Throughout the season we do daily wildlife surveys, including year-round bird observations and seasonal observations of fish, terrapins, and fall hawk migration. Daily activities also include maintaining this facility with my experienced staff. Duties from landscaping to janitorial maintenance of the facility take up most of our time so that the general public can enjoy the natural beauty with little to no interference.

## **Describe the projects that your GLOBE students work on.**

MF: The GLOBE (Global Learning & Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program is an international science and education program that focuses on promoting science literacy. Much of the data they collect monitors climate changes and the data can be compared globally. At MNSA, our most extensive data is collected and transmitted by our weather station. The data can be used by students from around the world to help monitor changes in the climate.

## **What activities do visiting school students engage in?**

MF: We offer educational programs to all ages and organized groups, from elementary school to college-level programs primarily focusing on saltmarsh ecology and the plants and animals that inhabit this ecosystem and their unique adaptations that allow them to benefit from the resources it provides. Depending on the class and students, the activities may include a scavenger hunt identifying plants and animals, water testing activities, and marine sampling. Some classes may be involved in quantitative studies of plant diversity and transect studies.

## **Tell us about your favorite birds.**

MF: I don't know if I have any favorite birds, but I'll give it a try. The Peregrine — a falcon with speed and deadliness. The Clapper Rail for its adaptations to its constantly changing environment and secretive nature. Finally, the Great Egret, a perfect example of elegance in brilliant white royalty.



Mike Farina & his crew at work at MNSA

## **In what ways have you seen climate changes during your tenure at MNSA?**

MF: Since my first summer in 1996, the effects of climate change on the preserve have been very noticeable. The zonation of the marsh based on plant life has changed dramatically making the property dominated by saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). That species denotes areas of the marsh that go under the water twice a day, everyday, creating fewer locations for nesting marsh birds. Tides run noticeably higher causing much of the trail system to go underwater. If you're a marsh bird that nests in the grass, to be completely submerged with water is not a good thing to continue your population.

## **Anything else you'd like to tell us?**

MF: The MNSA is finally starting its own restoration after its devastation from Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The new building will offer a unique space for students and visitors to continue to benefit and explore the saltmarsh and its many inhabitants. A more modern and energy-efficient facility will replace the patchwork of smaller buildings. It will continue its mission plan by providing an outdoor laboratory for schools, educating about saltmarsh ecology, marine conservation practices, earth science, marine biology, and nature study, as well as opportunities for research in marsh ecology and management. ♦

## Your Chance to View a Total Solar Eclipse

The total solar eclipse visits upstate New York on April 8, 2024, beginning at 3:16 PM EDT with the final exit of the Moon's shadow from the state at 3:29 PM EDT.

See [greatamericaneclipse.com/new-york-2024-eclipse](http://greatamericaneclipse.com/new-york-2024-eclipse) to learn where and how to view it.

After that, you will not have a chance until August 23, 2044.

When a solar eclipse reaches totality, nocturnal wildlife sometimes wakes up, thinking that it's nighttime, and non-nocturnal wildlife might think it's time to head to sleep. Birds might drop out of the sky!

Make reservations now — many hotels are already booked. ♦



### Thank you, Donors!

Jim & Gail Brown

Louise DeCesare

*(Toward the Michael Sperling Bird Sanctuary)*

Linda A. Ferraro

Robin Guardino

Thomas McCloskey

Daniela Pozzaglia

Franklin Rothenberg

Rita & William Sharkey

*(in Memory of Charles Morris)*

Leroy A. Winters

### TO OUR FELLOW SSAS VOLUNTEERS

We wish to express our thanks to and appreciation of all the *South Shore Skimmer* writers and behind-the-scenes volunteers who contributed to this publication throughout our tenure. A special shoutout to both Brien Weiner and Jay Koolpix who always respond to any last-minute pleas for help with alacrity and good humor.

- Editors Alene & Frank Scoblete

# Coming Attractions

## Whales in Our Waters with Drs. Artie Kopelman & Marianne McNamara

Tuesday, December 12 @ 7:30 PM

→ Virtual Program on Zoom

Join CRESLI's naturalists as they share stunning photography of their encounters with whales off Long Island shores, their exploration of the whales' unusual mortality rate, and factors that impact these fascinating giants of the sea.

Dr. Artie Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI) president and co-founder is Professor Emeritus of Science in the Department of Science and Mathematics, Fashion Institute of Technology and a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus.



Artie Kopelman



Marianne McNamara

Dr. Marianne McNamara is a naturalist with CRESLI and a Professor of Biology at Suffolk County Community College, specializing in marine biology. After studying the feeding ecology of zooplankton in nearby Long Island waters, she now studies cetaceans off Montauk aboard seasonal CRESLI whale watches.

## Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks with Joan Collins

Tuesday, January 9 @ 7:30 PM

→ Virtual Program on Zoom

Boreal Birds of the Adirondacks is a delightful and engaging multimedia presentation of some of the iconic bird species that nest in northern New York including the Black-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Bicknell's Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, and more.



Joan Collins

Joan Collins is a full-time licensed bird guide, writer, and presenter on a variety of birding topics. She loves birding, camping, climbing, and community science. She can be found at [AdirondackAvianExpeditions.com/](http://AdirondackAvianExpeditions.com/) and [FaceBook.com/AdirondackAvian](https://www.facebook.com/AdirondackAvian).

## Winter Landbirds in the Coastal Northeast: Half-Hardy Birds in a Half-Harsh Environment with Shaibal S. Mitra

Tuesday, February 13 @ 7:30 PM

→ Virtual Program on Zoom

Many birds migrate by leaving the Northeast long before temperatures drop or resources fail. But as climate and landscapes change, many migrants are wintering much farther north than ever before. Discover the whys and wherefores of these changes to familiar landbird species that we love.

Shai Mitra holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology and is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island. Shai is Editor of *The Kingbird*, the quarterly publication of the NYS Ornithological Association; co-compiler of bird records for the NYC and LI regions; and Chair of the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee.

## More Great Programs Coming Your Way!

Find program updates & links on: [SSAudubon.org](http://SSAudubon.org) • [facebook.com/SSAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/SSAudubon)

## Looking Up

by Russ Comeau

### The 21 Earliest Nesters

In late winter to early spring, these species are already incubating eggs and raising families on Long Island.

**Bald Eagle:** One of the earliest; nests in tall trees with commanding views.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Stick nester; favors trees on woodland edges of open land.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Makes no nest; just a simple scrape, typically high on rock ledges.

**Great Horned Owl:** The earliest nester of all; uses wide variety of existing nest sites.

**Barn Owl:** Uses existing nests in tree cavities, empty stick nests, or nest boxes.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Cavity nester in tree hollows or nest boxes.

**American Woodcock:** If eggs predated, may renest up to six times across multiple states.

**Wild Turkey:** Forms simple depression at base of tree or underneath brush.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Drills a fresh cavity in a dead tree or dead limb of a live tree.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Uses existing natural cavities or old woodpecker holes.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Tends to excavate a fresh nest in soft wood.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Excavates fresh nest in rotten wood of standing snag.



Russ Comeau

**American Crow:** Often hidden high in centrally located trees away from forest edges.

**Fish Crow:** Makes fresh stick nests in upper crotches of trees.

**Horned Lark:** Hole dug in soil, often around farm fields; female weaves fine nest lining.

**Mourning Dove:** Simple stick platform in trees at woodland or grassland edges.

**Northern Cardinal:** Nests in thickets, twiggy shrubs, or small trees with vines.

**Rock Pigeon:** Favors a ledge or flat space under overhead cover.

**House Sparrow:** Favors holes, nooks, crannies, Bluebird or Purple Martin boxes.

**European Starling:** Often takes woodpecker holes or nest boxes of native species.

**Monk Parakeet:** Makes large colonial stick compounds on buildings, trees, utility poles. ♦

## Insights

by Jim Brown

### Offshore Wind Update: Empire Wind & Other Stalled Projects



Jim Brown

Several SSAS members attended hearings on Empire Wind 2, an offshore wind farm being developed off the coast of Long Beach by the Norwegian-based company Equinor. The lengthy October 11 hearings were hosted by the New York State Public Service Commission, which was seeking public input on planned routes and infrastructure related to transmission cables to be built in state waters and land. The hearings were well attended, packed with both supporters and opponents

of the offshore wind development, a number of whom offered comments, pro and con, which were recorded for the official record. **The PSC will soon decide if Equinor's plans are accepted, rejected, or need to be revised.**



Photo by Peter Leahy

The PSC hearings took place shortly after the City Council of Long Beach had sent a letter to Governor Hochul

opposing the cable route through the City, chosen by Equinor as the best route from the standpoints of minimum negative environmental impacts and costs. The preferred route avoids disturbing tidal wetlands. In the months prior to the City Council's decision and the October PSC hearings, a well-organized and amply funded campaign had been waged by groups and individuals who routinely employed misinformation and fear to oppose not only the cable transmission route, but the whole Empire Wind 2 project, and even the need of any offshore wind projects anywhere at all.

Within days following the hearings, the PSC rejected a request by wind energy companies, including Equinor, to renegotiate upwards energy supply rates, due to rising costs. Governor Hochul also vetoed a bill that would have prevented Long Beach officials from nixing the preferred cable route.

Sadly, important offshore wind projects are now in limbo, awaiting renegotiation. All of this at a time when we are falling drastically behind in the attempt to lower greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change.

Stay tuned — environmentally responsible offshore wind will need our help in the coming weeks and months! ♦

# Through Guy's Eyes

by Guy Jacob

## Long Island Drinking Water Contaminated with Neonics



Guy Jacob

Neonicotinoids, the most toxic class of pesticides since DDT, are wreaking havoc on Long Island's aquifers, streams, rivers, and bays. Neonics have also been found in our groundwater and our drinking water. (1, 2)

The NYS Ocean Acidification Task Force (OATF) recently released its draft report, which recommended important nature-based solutions to combat ocean acidification (OA) in our bays. Because New York's aquatic ecosystems are being polluted by neonic pesticides, the nature-based solutions this report recommends will hold less promise than they might otherwise. **Neonics are frequently detected in state waters at levels indicating a "very high probability" that the pesticides are causing "ecosystem-wide damage" in New York.** (3)

Shellfish populations are being stressed by neonic pesticides in addition to OA. The expansive use of neonics, particularly **imidacloprid (IMI)**, in agriculture, at golf courses, and in home garden applications has led to the contamination of our aquatic systems. One study found that IMI exposure caused stress and impaired the immune system of the Sydney rock oyster, *Saccostrea glomerata*. (4)

Another study found that ecological harms in the field were consistent with the synergistic effects observed in a mesocosm experiment, indicating that neonicotinoid mixtures pose greater than expected risks to stream health. (5) Chronic and acute exposure to neonics was also found to cause damage to marine invertebrates. Aquatic organisms are particularly susceptible to

insecticides because they share not only the same neurological and respiratory mechanisms with insects, but also the same detoxification system, which is deficient in both cases. Aquatic invertebrate organisms are ancestral, and, consequently, these organisms are unable to degrade most of the toxic compounds that enter their body. (6)

**A growing body of literature is examining neonic threats to marine ecosystems.** (7) Evidence indicates that neonics are exacerbating harm to Long Island's bays, thereby swelling the effects of excess nitrogen loading. Like smoking and eating unhealthy foods, both toxic inputs serve as multiplier effects, as both weaken the system. An investigation into the extent of how neonics are impacting our bodies of water and compounding the impacts of OA must be undertaken.

**Fortunately, the Birds & Bees Protection Act (BBPA)** (S1856A Hoylman-Sigal / A7640 Glick), which would strictly ban certain uses of neonics, **was passed in June with significant bipartisan support:** the entire Long Island Senatorial Delegation, three Democrats and seven Republicans, **voted to pass the BBPA.** All Long Island members of the Democratic Assembly and two of the Republican Assembly supported the bill. ♦

### CALL TO ACTION

**Urge Governor Hochul to sign the BBPA into law:**  
[governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form](https://governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)  
and/or call 518-474-8390.

### LINKS to RESOURCES

1. Jack Monti et al., Long Island Water Use (2017) <https://tinyurl.com/52bf4ukr>
2. Patrick G. Halpin, et al., Drinking Water Quality Report (2022) <https://tinyurl.com/4t2bsnrj>
3. Pierre Mineau, Impacts of Neonics in New York Water (2019), <https://on.nrdc.org/2IXsO00>
4. Endurance E. Ewere et al., Impacts the immune system of Sydney rock oyster (2020), <https://tinyurl.com/5n6pyvw4>
5. Travis Schmidt et al., Ecological consequences of neonicotinoid mixtures in streams (2022), [science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abj8182](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abj8182)

### LINKS to RESOURCES

6. Maria Pagano et al., Impact of Neonicotinoids to Aquatic Invertebrates (2020), [mdpi.com/2077-1312/8/10/801](https://mdpi.com/2077-1312/8/10/801)
7. Tanja Naumann et al., Occurrence and Ecological Risk Assessment of Neonicotinoids and Related Insecticides in the Bohai Sea and Its Surrounding Rivers, China, Water Research (Feb. 2022), <https://bit.ly/3ZVHv2U>; Samuel Moeris et al, Neonicotinoid Insecticides from a Marine Perspective: Acute and Chronic Copepod Testing and Derivation of Environmental Quality Standards, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (Jan. 19, 2021), <https://bit.ly/409EFrp>; Francisco Sanchez-Bayo et al., Contamination of the Aquatic Environment with Neonicotinoids and its Implication for Ecosystems, Frontiers in Environmental Science (Nov. 2016), <https://bit.ly/2LifRHf>.

# Going Native: Good Garden Economics

by Betty Borowsky & Louise DeCesare



Betty Borowsky

**D**on't be so hasty in getting out your clippers, rakes, and bags. What looks untidy is

actually a treasure trove. Leave dead flower stalks with seed clusters on top, no matter how absurd they look. If you must cut back, leave at least 18" and arrange the seed heads and stalks around the bed. This can be done artfully avoiding your neighbor's wrath about your unkempt yard.

Why? Your feathered friends will thank you. Native seeds provide a vital source of nutrition for local and migrating birds during the lean months. It's healthier than commercial seed mix and a heck of a lot cheaper.

Keep those messy bits of sunflower and coneflower stalks, grass, and milkweed floss too. They make excellent nesting material for birds, and the bees and other insects will appreciate it. Some bees like to nest in empty stalks (coneflower, milkweed, sunflower, pretty much anything that is hollow) and come spring, you will have the next generation of pollinators for your flowers and veggies.



Butterfly Weed with Seeds & Bugs  
by Louise DeCesare

Forgo the rake and mulch, just leave the leaves. Decomposing leaves add nutrients and improve soil structure. Leaves keep the ground moist and warm protecting plants, insects, and all sorts of critters that need shelter. Litter attracts earthworms, so who needs to buy worm castings when you have the real deal? And remember, insects are a good source of protein for wintering birds — think Juncos, Towhees, Robins, Cardinals, Sparrows, Thrushes, Wrens...so why spend on mulch when you can have it for free and attract more wildlife?

Lastly, don't take the playground away. White-throated and Song Sparrows just love rustling through leaves looking for those seeds you left behind. Make a jungle gym with those tree limbs or logs you pruned. Birds love it, and you will attract woodpeckers, nuthatches and other insect-loving birds. Be economical and save your energy, materials, and money. Nature will thank you. ♦



Louise DeCesare

## The Wise Owl: Final Wise Words



Courtesy Danielle Scoblele

Wise Owl

It's been a hoot! I'd like to thank the Scobleles for giving me the opportunity to share my wisdom, and to express my gratitude for their years of service in bringing us an informative and entertaining newsletter.

That said, if you are not saving the newsletters for posterity, please recycle them and leave the trees for owls to make their homes. You humans are not the only ones with a housing shortage.

For the scoop on how to live with owls, pick up a copy of **Alfie and Me** by Long Island's own Carl Safina. Alfie was an injured Eastern Screech Owl who Carl rehabilitated in his home during the pandemic, and successfully released into the "wild" of his backyard, where she chose to raise her family. He explores how humans can live more harmoniously with the natural world. Visit [carlsafina.org/](http://carlsafina.org/) ♦

Visit Us Online!



@AudubonSS



@SSAudubon



@SouthShoreAudubon

**LEONARD G. KONSKER**

Certified Public Accountant

990 Westbury Rd., Ste. 103

Westbury, NY 11590



Phone: (516) 931-1445

Fax: (516) 931-1467

[lenny@konskerandcompany.com](mailto:lenny@konskerandcompany.com)

*South Shore Audubon Society*  
 PO Box 31  
 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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

Visit Our Website:



**Who's Who**

Officers

- Russ Comeau, President: (928) 614-9186
- Joe Landesberg, Treasurer & Bird Walks: (516) 536-4808
- Mike Zito, Recording Sec'y: (516) 507-9419
- Janice Basilicata, Corresponding Sec'y: (516) 546-0275

Directors & Committee Chairs

- Betty Belford: (516) 385-1759
- Bill Belford, Information & Research: (516) 385-1759
- Betty Borowsky, Education: (516) 764-3596
- Chris Braut: (631) 834-6070
- Gail Brown, Hospitality: (516) 608-1446
- Jim Brown, Conservation Co-Chair: (516) 608-1446
- Bill Clifford: (631) 991-7989
- Louise DeCesare, Native Plants: (917) 548-6974
- Todd Green: TGreen09@nyit.edu
- Betsy Gulotta, College Scholarships: (516) 546-8841
- Marilyn Hametz, Publicity: (516) 799-7189
- Linda Ilan, Programs: (516) 935-1268
- Guy Jacob, Conservation Co-Chair: (516) 312-3348
- Jay Koolpix: NaturePhotography7@gmail.com
- Richard Kopsco: (516) 825-6792
- Will Laffey: Feathered.Will.10@gmail.com
- Wendy Murbach, Membership: (516) 546-6303
- Dolores Rogers, Welcoming: (516) 426-9012
- Christie Tashjian (917) 797-6049
- Brien Weiner, Conservation Co-Chair: (516) 220-7121

**ENJOY THE OUTDOORS**  
*Join us on our Bird Walks!*

**Join South Shore Audubon Society!**

Become a member of our local chapter for **only \$20 per year!** Receive our newsletter, *South Shore Skimmer*, which includes listings for our local outings and programs as well as the latest on environmental issues and initiatives.

To **join or renew** your membership, make your check payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** and send the form and check to: **PO Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.**

→ **All memberships expire in September.** ←

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: JOIN or RENEW

***Donations are tax-deductible!***