



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

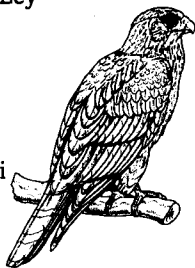
You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month (second Monday this February) to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks led by Elliott Kutner. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin ..... Judith Goebel, Bert Smith
- Bellmore ..... Robert Arnold
- East Rockaway ..... Helen Gunning
- Farmingdale ..... Nicole Dauenhauer
- Freeport ..... H. & Alda Levander
- Glen Oaks ..... Rajendra P. Agnish
- Hempstead ..... Elaine Nolan
- Hicksville ..... Richard Weedon
- Island Park ..... Nellie Zuccaro
- Levittown ..... Maureen Cusati, Julia Davidson,  
Ron Schacht
- Lynbrook ..... Marion Gay, Ken Ley
- Manhasset ..... Joan Parry
- Massapequa ..... Thomas Noll
- Merrick ..... Neville Hughes
- Oceanside ..... Bonny Glavin
- Rockville Centre ..... Leon Berman
- Stewart Manor ..... Joanna E. Piazzini
- Valley Stream ..... Lee M. James
- Wantagh ..... Elaine Cioffi
- Woodmere ..... Edna Sack



## BELATED FLEA MARKET THANKS

In last month's flea market wrap-up by Maureen Rube, your editor was supposed to add the names of people whose items he had picked up, but the *Skimmers* had already been printed by the time I remembered. Apologies to Joan Betts and her mother, Gloria & Charles Chapman, and Betsy Gulotta; we thank you for your donations, which nearly included a raccoon that went past my car's open door while I was carrying things toward it.

## BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUP TIME!

On Sunday, October 28, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its annual fall cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine. Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that was rescued from oblivion and is managed by SSAS. With help from a state grant, we produced a trail guide, educational freshwater wetland guide, and video; we continue to add plantings for wildlife and have applied for county environmental bond act funds. The guides may be viewed at [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org).



The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport H.S.). Please bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends of all ages.

If you're interested in attending Brookside Preserve Committee meetings (which are often not announced in the *Skimmer*), please e-mail [mssperring@optonline.net](mailto:mssperring@optonline.net) or call **You're Invited!** Marilyn, Betsy, or George (see back page).



## AUDUBON NEW YORK ADDS LONG ISLAND BIRD CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

Carolyn Spilman

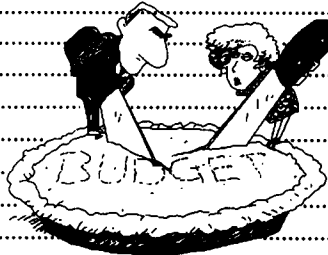
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Long Island Bird Conservation Coordinator with Audubon New York. This is a new position that was designed to provide a stronger Audubon presence here on Long Island, where we have a large concentration of state Important Bird Areas and support a substantial number of WatchList species of conservation concern. Many of the priority species found on Long Island are beach-nesting birds that are found in few other places in the state, including Piping Plover and Roseate, Common (pictured), and Least Terns.



The goals of the new Long Island Bird Conservation Program are to dispel some of the myths surrounding endangered species conservation efforts, address threats to beach-nesting birds and their habitats, and to expand stewardship efforts on Long Island's beaches. My aim is to cooperate with chapter educators and Audubon volunteers to develop effective outreach activities and educational programs that address the issues related to beach-nesting bird conservation. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this new program, visit [http://ny.audubon.org/BirdSci\\_CoastalBirdConservation.html](http://ny.audubon.org/BirdSci_CoastalBirdConservation.html) or please feel free to contact me at P.O. Box 1635, Southold, NY 11971; [cspilman@audubon.org](mailto:cspilman@audubon.org); or 631-477-6456 (phone and fax).

**BUDGET 2007-2008**

Bank Fees .....	\$100
Brookside Preserve .....	\$1,000
College Scholarships .....	\$1,500
Conferences .....	\$1,600
Conservation .....	\$200
Donations .....	\$500
Education .....	\$1,100
Festivals .....	\$1,000
High School Scholarships .....	\$1,000
Insurance .....	\$1,000
Library .....	\$1,400
Membership .....	\$1,000
Miscellaneous .....	\$400
Office Expenses .....	\$800
Publicity .....	\$200
Refreshments .....	\$400
Skimmer .....	\$6,000
Speakers .....	\$1,000
TR Camp Scholarships/Bus .....	\$3,000
<i>Total</i> .....	<b>\$23,250</b>



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 (516) 887-1541 Fax: (516) 887-1553

**ARTHUR C. SNOW**  
 Certified Public Accountant

29 Broadway, Suite 200  
 Lynbrook, New York 11563-2520  
 e-mail: ACSnowCPA@verizon.net

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**PRESERVING OPEN SPACE ON THE SOUTH SHORE**

*Jim Brown*

Several real estate development projects are being considered for the South Shore of Long Island that would negatively affect the fragile environment of our barrier islands.

In Long Beach, the City Council is considering building five condominium and office towers along the community's bay front. These towers, up to 14 stories in height, would contain 500 housing units, further adding to overcrowding of the most densely populated community of Nassau County. Especially disconcerting is the fact that the initial cleanup of this brownfields site was made possible with county environmental bond act money, which was earmarked to improve the natural environment of Long Island. Also disconcerting is the fact that the City of Long Beach would be transferring public land to a private developer. This project would be an irremediable loss for the public and the environment.

Condos also threaten the barrier beach environment of Atlantic Beach. An investment group headed by Alfonse

D'Amato intends to build 100 condominium units on the property now occupied by the Sands Beach Club. The development calls for the construction of twenty buildings, two-and-a-half stories high, each unit selling for about a million dollars. This real estate scheme requires a change in zoning that would reverse a 20-year-old establishment of a "marine recreation district" in this fragile barrier island district of the Town of Hempstead. Development has historically been limited here to preserve open space and access to beaches.

Donald Trump and Steve Carl are currently building a very large restaurant and catering hall at Jones Beach State Park. The current design is approximately four times the size of the original restaurant. The expanded parking lot would eliminate open space at our publicly owned beach. Pavement would replace green space. It is estimated that the catering hall would charge approximately \$300 a plate for privately catered affairs. Why can't the State of New York get the type of restaurant it originally asked for, something more in tune with Robert Moses' original vision for our premier public beach?

The Board of SSAS urges its members to speak out and oppose these overdevelopment schemes that are threatening the fragile environment of our barrier beaches. Smart growth and sensitivity to environmental realities, not blind real estate development, are needed for our barrier islands, especially in this age of global warming and habitat loss. Write or call the officials listed below, urging them to stand up for the environment so important to us all. For more information, you can call me at 432-8156.

*Long Beach:*

Edwin L. Eaton  
 City Manager  
 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, NY 11561  
 431-1000 x201

*Town of Hempstead and Village of Atlantic Beach:*

Kate Murray  
 Town Supervisor, Hempstead  
 1 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550  
 489-5000

Stephen R. Mahler  
 Mayor, Atlantic Beach  
 65 The Plaza, Atlantic Beach, NY 11509  
 371-4600

*New York State (for Jones Beach):*

Carol Ash, Commissioner  
 New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
 Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1  
 Albany, NY 12238  
 518-474-0456

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 OUR E-LIST [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\\_list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list)  
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**THE OWLS WILL BE THERE!  
WILL YOU?**

*Therese Lucas*

On **Saturday, October 27** from 1 to 3 P.M., SSAS will again host a Halloween party for children at Tackapausha Museum on Washington Ave. in Seaford. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (ages 4 to 14; free for younger children), which are the normal museum admission prices.

The afternoon event will begin with nature crafts and snacks. At 2 P.M. there will be an owl program given by Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. A variety of live owls will be on display during the interactive presentation.

Our table of informative brochures will also be there, covering membership, birding, and conservation.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the craft table, please contact me at 221-3921 or [tklwings@optonline.net](mailto:tklwings@optonline.net).



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

**NYC AUDUBON HAWK WATCH** (Sun., Sept. 30, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at Bldg. 1 in Fort Tilden, Rockaway for a hike to the beach, dunes, and hawk watch platform during peak raptor migration time. Leader: Don Riepe. To reserve, call Don.

**JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE** (Sat., Oct. 13, 4-7 P.M.). Meet in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn for a 3-hour narrated tour of the backwater marshes of the bay aboard the brand new 101-foot boat "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the history, ecology & wildlife of this 13,000-acre preserve. See egrets, herons, ibis, osprey, peregrine falcon, shorebirds, and waterfowl during peak migration time. Cost: \$45/person includes wine & cheese, fruit, drinks, snacks.

**CHINCOTEAGUE/ASSATEAGUE FALL BIRDING** (Nov. 1-4). An extended weekend at a great coastal preserve. See bald eagle, brown pelican, and many species of waterfowl plus wild horses, river otter, Sika deer, endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, and lots more. Cost: \$345 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guided hikes of refuge and national seashore, plus Saturday "All-ya-can-eat" seafood dinner.

**MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND** (Jan. 4-6). See thousands of waterfowl during peak winter birding, seals. Cost: \$345.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, [driepe@nyc.rr.com](mailto:driepe@nyc.rr.com), 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).

**SSAS RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Joe Grupp*

During the summer months of July and August, the Research Committee surveyed the birds in Valley Stream State Park weekly; Brookside and Meroke Preserves bi-weekly; and the Greenbelt Trail from the Southern State Parkway to the LIE, which requires a minimum of five individual surveys, monthly.

This was accomplished through the efforts of Joe Landesberg, Steve Schellenger, Jeannette Miller, Rick Kopitsch, Mary Jane Russell, and myself. This accomplishment was a team effort, as there were times when individuals, including myself, could not participate and the surveys were done effectively by the remaining participants.

**Backyard Survey Data Needed!** For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you make only very few.

Simply record the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Survey sheets are available at SSAS events and at [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org) or you can create your own.

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553 or e-mail [Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com](mailto:Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com).

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**FEEDING TIPS  
Here's What Eastern Birds Like**

*Marlene A. Condon*

*Editor's note:* This article (shortened a bit) came from the November/December 1994 issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*.

It has been my experience that the majority of people who feed birds are not aware that the birds that frequent tube-type feeders are birds that eat *only* or *mainly* sunflower seeds, not millet. Often I have seen tube-type bird feeders filled with seed mixtures composed mostly of white millet. People assume this is appropriate because mixtures are advertised to be placed in feeders. Unfortunately, this is misinformation.

White millet is actually *very* popular among ground-feeding birds, but these birds tend not to go to raised feeders. Mourning doves, all kinds of sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, and even cardinals and red-bellied woodpeckers readily eat white millet if it is available to them on the ground, in a tray, or on a flat surface close to the ground.

If you have feeders at which birds have to land on a small perch, you should use only sunflower seeds or chips.

Tufted titmice, Carolina and/or black-capped chickadees, American goldfinches, house finches, and purple finches (and during invasion years, evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, and common redpolls) will keep your feeders busy all day long during the winter months if they are stocked with sunflower seeds. These birds simply do not eat white millet. If the mixture you bought consists of a large percentage of sunflower seeds, the aforementioned birds may pick out the millet and discard it so as to retrieve sunflower seeds, but this is a waste of their time and, therefore, a drain on their energy reserves during cold weather.

In the East, we really need only two kinds of seeds to attract most feeder birds: white millet and sunflower (niger is also very popular with finches, but rather expensive). Studies have shown some birds prefer oil-type to striped sunflower seeds, but I personally have found the birds manage with either. I usually go with whatever's less expensive, or if shelled sunflower pieces are available, I buy those, as they are easier for some birds to eat.

It's a myth that cardinals love safflower seed. They will eat it, but only if sunflower seeds and white millet are not available. It's also a myth that several kinds of birds like peanut bits. They really love peanut butter, either as is or mixed with shortening and cornmeal or flour. You can easily test either of these assertions by supplying safflower seeds and peanut bits, each in their own feeders, while supplying the other foods I've mentioned. The birds will take what they prefer.

Speaking of peanut butter, another myth has to do with birds choking on pure peanut butter. This has never been shown to be the case, and indeed, I myself have hand-fed chickadees unadulterated peanut butter without ever having a problem. However, the birds seem to prefer a more "fatty" version, so I now mix one part melted shortening with one part peanut butter (plain or chunky) and three to five parts cornmeal (which "stiffens" up the mixture enough to make it easier to feed the birds).

The following ratings are based upon my experience of feeding birds. I hope they will make your feeding program more successful and therefore more enjoyable. (An asterisk indicates a best buy.)

*\*Black oil sunflower seed.* Most birds love sunflower seeds. Black oil seed is a smaller seed, which may be easier for some birds to eat. Its high oil content means lots of energy for the birds.

*Striped sunflower seed.* This is a larger sunflower seed, but it has less oil content. Birds with beaks capable of cracking the shell will readily eat this seed, but it's not nearly as popular as black oil. There's no harm in offering this kind, but black oil is a superior seed.

*Blended sunflower seed.* This is a mixture of black oil and striped sunflower seeds. I see no real advantage in offering this to the birds.

*Premium wild bird seed.* At best this is a mixture of 30% black oil sunflower seed and 30% millet, with the remainder

a combination of cracked corn and peanut bits. This will attract a large variety of birds, some of which you may not want: crows and starlings are strongly attracted to corn and peanut bits. Also, this is not a good mixture for seed-dispensing feeders of any type. Although birdseed mixtures are popular with people, I recommend against them. It is more economical to feed only those seeds that birds actually prefer (sunflower and white millet), and you can put the seeds in the appropriate places (sunflower in any type feeder or on the ground, millet *only* in tray feeders or on the ground).

*\*Sunflower chips.* Hulled sunflower seeds are attractive to virtually all birds. Birds whose beaks are incapable of cracking the shells of sunflower seeds readily eat sunflower chips. Although chips are more expensive per pound, you are paying only for edible food, and not for inedible shells. Chips are highly recommended for feeding areas where you don't want either shell litter under the feeder or numerous sunflower seedlings when spring arrives.

*Safflower seed.* My experience with safflower is that it is not very appealing to birds. You might want to use this if you have starling or squirrel problems, since these species supposedly aren't attracted to safflower.

*Peanut bits and pieces.* Some birds (titmice, Carolina wrens, blue jays) will take these, but in my experience they go rancid before being consumed. I recommend using peanut butter, which is loved by many birds — use chunky PB if you want to offer peanut bits.

*\*White proso millet.* Ground-feeding birds (juncos, cardinals, white-throated sparrows, indigo buntings, rufous-sided towhees, etc.) love white (not red) millet. This should definitely be offered in a bird-feeding program, but preferably on the ground or on a tray.

*Niger seed.* This is extremely attractive to finches. However, it's not necessary to offer this, as finches also love sunflower seeds and will come just as readily to those. Think of niger as a special treat. (Note: I don't find it necessary to offer niger in a special feeder. Any tube feeder will work. I haven't had problems with spillage from typical feeders.)

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 **BIRD WALKS**   
Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions and summaries may be found at [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org).

- |         |                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Sep. 23 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge          |
| Sep. 30 | Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve     |
| Oct. 7  | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |
| Oct. 14 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge          |
| Oct. 21 | Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve     |
| Oct. 28 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |
| Nov. 4  | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge          |
| Nov. 11 | Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner |





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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
*Americans Committed to Conservation*



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 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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- Enid Klein, Programs ..... 561-0004
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- Therese Lucas, Greening of LI & Annual Dinner ... 221-3921
- James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon ..... 631-957-0949
- Dolores Rogers, Welcoming ..... 599-1224
- Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality ..... 766-7397

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

*Option 1.* You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 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 survive NAS's major dues-share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 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; \$15 for students and seniors.

**Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

**Donations to SSAS are always welcome!**



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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)*

