





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Muirbach




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 (third Tuesday in February 2013) 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. 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 .....	Aston Forrest, Edith Schlam	
Bellmore .....	Cornelius Hosey, George Zogg	
Bethpage .....	Kathleen Clark	
Cedarhurst .....	Karen Sackville	
East Meadow .....	Marge Henderson, Howard Sprintz	
Farmingdale .....	Cathleen Colella, Sue Hess, C. F. Paladino	
Floral Park .....	Susan Rhodes	
Franklin Square .....	Elizabeth Desiderio, J. Juray	
Freeport .....	Jim Miller, Stephanie & Michael Radus, Miriam Sosa	
Garden City .....	Herbert Hummers	
Glen Oaks .....	Joseph Castaldi, Celine Paulus	
Hempstead .....	Elizabeth A. Maier, Donna Panzarino	
Hicksville .....	William Harper	
Island Park .....	Joy Berg, Michael Spinelli	
Levittown .....	Mohammad I. Baig, Victoria Meagher, Dianne B. Mundy, Geraldine Raab, Helen Taylor, Pam Thiede	
Lido Beach .....	Lynn Eskenazi	
Long Beach .....	Olive Dalto	
Lynbrook .....	Patricia Caponi, Gina Donegan	
Malverne .....	Daniel Araoz, Mary A. Larkin	
Massapequa .....	Rose Dalessio, Henry Entenberg, Michael Newman, Anita Stramezzi, Mrs. Morton Tanenbaum	
Massapequa Park .....	Barbara Kaufmann, Audrey Nowotarski	
Merrick .....	Pamela Clark, Ms. Theresa Whitney, Joan D. Zacconi	
Oceanside .....	Theodore Fischer, Frances Pecci	
Plainview .....	Mary Levin	
Rockville Centre .....	Annette E. Fenton, Clayton McKenna, Ann Niemczyk, Betty Shelby, Amy Stivelman, Marsha Uzar	
Seaford .....	John Akeson, Kevin Fischer, Kim Leibold	
Uniondale .....	Frank Nocella	
Wantagh .....	Gail Kampfer	
West Hempstead .....	Wayne Clauss	
Woodmere .....	Joseph Frucht	

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## BROOKLYN WATER WORKS UPDATE

Michael Sperling

Much has happened regarding the fate of the Brooklyn Water Works property in the four months since the last *Skimmer* went to the printer. After over a decade of six-story construction proposals on the southern border of SSAS-managed Brookside Preserve in Freeport/Baldwin, we are very close to having the 4.2-acre property, which borders the LIRR from Brookside Avenue to Milburn Avenue, added to 20-acre Brookside Preserve.

SSAS was contacted by Nassau County in early April, setting up an April 13 meeting with the Acting Director of the Office of Real Estate Services, Michael Kelly. At that meeting, we learned that an agreement had been reached to purchase the property from developer Gary Melius (thanks to new appraisals and presumably also to strong community opposition to an apartment building that would have been the largest building in Freeport). We confirmed that SSAS continues to be very willing to manage the property, which we had nominated for acquisition under the 2004 and 2006 voter-approved Nassau County Environmental Program Bond Acts and had been recommended for acquisition as open space in both Bond Acts' Advisory Committee Reports.

On May 21, SSAS was in the audience when the Nassau County Legislature unanimously approved the purchase of the property, with Jim Brown addressing the Legislature prior to the vote. Ten days later, we attended a second meeting with Michael Kelly, this time accompanied by his boss, Deputy County Executive Charles Theofan, to discuss future steps.

As of August 10 (when I spoke to Mr. Kelly), the Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments have been completed, both indicating that an underground storage tank may be on the property. Water Works Realty (Gary Melius's company) has been instructed to dig in order to identify what's down there and to remove the tank if indeed there is one. All of the purchase approvals needed from the County have been completed and the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA) has been notified that it will be formally asked to approve the County's issuance of a bond in accordance with the Environmental Program Bond Act (bonds for open space acquisitions are issued separately each time the County reaches agreement to purchase a property using Bond Act funds). Also, SSAS's management agreement with the County is being revised as needed. Stay tuned for what should be more good news soon.

## PLUM ISLAND DEIS RELEASED

*Editor's note:* Exactly two years ago, the *Skimmer* contained an update from John Turner of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition, which includes SSAS and Long Island's six other Audubon chapters among its members. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) mentioned in that article was released this past July, preceded by the announcement that appears as the first three paragraphs to the right. In 2008, Congress authorized the sale of Plum Island. First, here's an update from John:

One place that reflects much of the life that represents Long Island Sound, but compressed into a much smaller area, is Plum Island, an 843-acre pork-chop shaped island that juts out from the bony finger of Long Island's North Fork. Given its diversity and abundance, it's hard not to speak in superlatives.

Researchers have documented nearly 180 bird species on the Island, including federally threatened Piping Plovers that nest here and federally endangered Roseate Terns from the nearby breeding colony at Great Gull Island that often rest on the Island. There are eight Osprey nests scattered throughout, as well as an active Bank Swallow [pictured] colony situated in the middle part of



the southern bluff of the Island. The offshore waters host thousands of eiders, scoters, and other sea ducks during the winter, amidst the largest seal haul-out site in southern New England, found at the Island's eastern edge. Additionally, rare plants and plant communities are scattered throughout.

However, this precious gem is currently in danger. The federal government is looking to move the Plum Island Animal Disease Center to a new location in Kansas and, in the process, attempting to sell the Island to the highest bidder. In its recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the General Services Administration recommends selling the Island without any provisions written in for conservation. This is extremely worrisome since more than 90% of Plum Island is currently pristine, undeveloped, undisturbed, lush habitat. A sale without conservation would displace the wildlife that call Plum Island home and disrupt the habitats on the Island.

In an effort to better document and catalog the ecological resources and features of the Island, the New York Natural Heritage Program recently undertook a comprehensive review of the species and natural communities occurring on the Island. Entitled *Biological diversity and ecological potential of Plum Island, New York*, this report [posted online] documents this richness. Funding for the NHP report was provided by The Nature Conservancy's Long Island and Connecticut chapters.



If you would like to get a better sense of our Treasure Island or learn how to get involved in protecting the Island, visit the Preserve Plum Island Coalition's website at [www.preserveplumisland.org](http://www.preserveplumisland.org).

The U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security acting as Joint Lead Agencies, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region Two and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Northeast Region as Cooperating Agencies, have completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Public Sale of Plum Island, New York in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An electronic copy of the DEIS is available online for review and retrieval at [www.plumislandny.com](http://www.plumislandny.com). Physical copies of the report are available to the public at the Southold Free Library in Southold, New York and the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

An official notice of the report's availability will be [was] published on July 20, 2012, in the Federal Register. This publication will start the 60-day NEPA comment period. Two public meetings will be scheduled in September, one occurring in the Town of Southold, New York and the other in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Comments can be submitted online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by mail to Mr. John Dugan, Office of Real Property Utilization & Disposal, U.S. General Services Administration, Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street Room 1010, Boston, MA 02222.

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 **BIRD WALKS**   
Steve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org).

- Aug. 26 Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside
- Sept. 2 *Labor Day Weekend — No Walk*
- Sept. 9 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Sept. 16 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Sept. 23 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Sept. 30 Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside
- Oct. 7 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 14 Tackapausha Museum and Preserve

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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

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AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

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Explore the coast  
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**AMERICAN  
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

**SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL** (Sat., Aug. 25, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.). Seventh annual shorebird festival at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Free but donation requested. Contact Don to reserve.

**JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES** (Sat., Sept. 8, 4–7 P.M. and Sat., Oct. 13, 3–6 P.M.). Leave from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn for a special narrated tour aboard the “Golden Sunshine.” Learn about the ecology and history of the bay and see a variety of birds, including falcons, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Cost: \$45 includes wine, cheese, fruit, and other snacks and refreshments. To purchase by credit card, go to <http://jamaicabaysunsetcruises.eventbrite.com>. To purchase by check, please mail to address below.

**CAPE MAY HAWK WATCH** (Sept. 28–30). Cost: \$210.

**CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** (Nov. 1–4). A weekend of great wildlife viewing along the Delmarva Peninsula. Visit Cypress Swamp and Bombay Hook Refuge on the way home. Cost: \$395/person includes 3 nights lodging, safari bus tour of refuge, and seafood dinner on Saturday night (all the oysters you can eat).

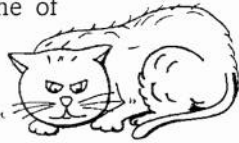
For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com), 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).

**“KITTYCAM” RESULTS**

*Editor’s note:* On August 6, the American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society published a media release entitled “‘KittyCam’ Reveals High Levels of Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats.” The release (posted at [www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html](http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html)) includes the following paragraphs:

A new study of house cats allowed to roam outdoors finds that nearly one-third succeeded in capturing and killing animals. The cats, which wore special video cameras around their necks that recorded their outdoor activities, killed an average of 2.1 animals every week they were outside, but brought less than one of every four of their kills home. Of particular interest, bird kills constituted about 13 percent of the total wildlife kills. Based on these results, American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society estimate that house cats kill far more than the previous estimate of a billion birds and other animals each year. The study was carried out by scientists from the University of Georgia and the National Geographic Society’s Crittercam program.

“The results were certainly surprising, if not startling,” said Kerrie Anne Loyd of the University of Georgia, who was the lead author of the study. “In Athens–Clarke County, we found that about 30 percent of the sampled cats were successful in capturing and killing prey, and that



those cats averaged about one kill for every 17 hours outdoors or 2.1 kills per week. It was also surprising to learn that cats only brought 23 percent of their kills back to a residence. We found that house cats will kill a wide variety of animals, including lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, frogs, and small snakes.”

Loyd and her colleagues attached small video cameras (dubbed “Crittercams” or “KittyCams”) to 60 outdoor house cats in the city of Athens, Georgia, and recorded their outdoor activities during all four seasons. Loyd said the cats were outside for an average of 5–6 hours every day. Volunteer cat owners were recruited through advertisements in local newspapers, and all selected cats were given a free health screening. Each cat owner downloaded the footage from the camera at the end of each recording day.



**BUG ZAPPERS**

*Editor’s note:* The following was the Summer 2010 Myth Buster, part of an ongoing series from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that’s archived at [www.dec.ny.gov/public/45772.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/45772.html).

**Myth:** Bug zappers are an effective solution to mosquitoes.

**Busted!** Bug zappers kill thousands of harmless and beneficial insects and, percentage-wise, few mosquitoes. Such wholesale electrocution of a wide range of insects deprives insect-eating birds of their food. These devices often use ultraviolet (UV) light to attract insects; however, mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, not UV light. Some zappers emit a mosquito-attracting pheromone or CO<sub>2</sub>, which work but may end up drawing more mosquitoes to your yard than they kill.



Control mosquitoes by reducing the places that they breed. Get rid of standing water in old tires, gutters, and bird baths. If you have a pond, introduce fish that feed on mosquito eggs or use dunks containing the larvicide Bti (bacteria that target mosquitoes). Mosquitoes aren’t strong fliers, so placing a fan in the area you’re in may help keep them off you. Protect yourself with bug repellent. Products containing DEET have proven to be most effective, and may be necessary where mosquito-borne diseases are likely. If you dislike the smell and feel of products with DEET, try repellents containing Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.



**SSAS HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**

The recipients of our annual high school scholarships in June, arranged by Joe Landesberg, were as follows: Colin Bedney from Freeport H.S., Rachel Convertino from Long Beach H.S., Joseph Marchese–Schmitt from Baldwin Senior H.S., and Kasey Ng from South Side H.S. in Rockville Centre. We congratulate them and wish them a successful future.





**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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- Steven Schellenger, Director (6/14), Field Trips  
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- John Gaglione, Director (6/13) & Programs ..... 731-5012
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- Dolores Rogers, Welcoming ..... 599-1224
- Michael Sperling, *Skimmer* Editor ..... 221-3921

**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 your 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 (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: \_\_\_\_\_

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