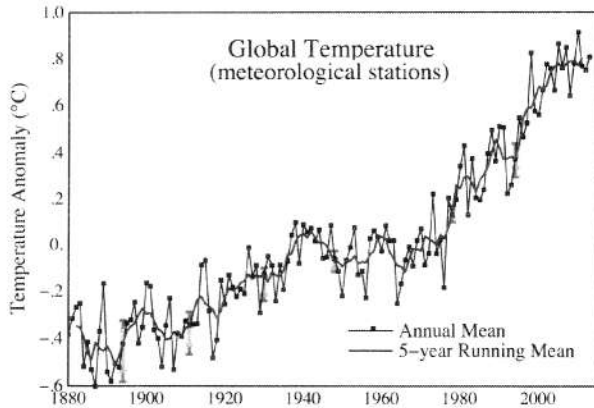
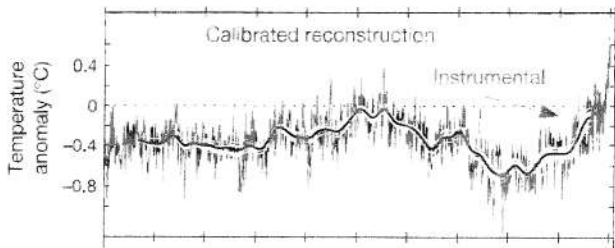


Blue Jays in our area and they stay around through the winter as well.

But these are anecdotes. What hard evidence do we have that in fact the earth is warming? The first graph below, from NASA (http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/graphs_v3/), contains the annual mean and five-year running means (to smooth the curve) of temperature measured directly since about 1880.



Temperatures going back two thousand years have been estimated using many indirect but reliable sources, such as tree ring widths, pollen grain distributions, coral growth patterns, and so on. The second graph, from NOAA (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/pubs/moberg2005/moberg2005.html>), connects the estimates from the earlier years with the more recent data, and shows something even worse: not only is the earth warming, but the rate of warming may have accelerated since the early 1800s. ("Instrumental" refers to the data taken directly, beginning in about 1880.)



So the great body of evidence shows that the earth is warming up. Should we care about this? Personally, I'm not a big fan of cold weather — maybe we should just enjoy the warmer weather? And the actual increase in temperature doesn't seem too much: "Earth's average temperature has risen by 1.4°F over the past century, and is projected to rise another 2°F to 11.5°F over the next hundred years" (www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics/).

Well, in my view, we on Long Island should care a great deal. As the earth warms, sea level rises: the glaciers melt and the meltwater swells the ocean, and the volume of the water increases as its temperature increases as well. The NOAA website states: "Records and research show that sea level has been steadily rising at a rate of 0.04 to 0.1 inches per year since 1900. This rate may be increasing. Since 1992, new methods of satellite altimetry (the

measurement of elevation or altitude) indicate a rate of rise of 0.12 inches per year. This is a significantly larger rate than the sea-level rise averaged over the last several thousand years" (<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/sealevel.html>).

We are on an island, and most of Long Island is in fact at sea level. Even now, based on the "surge" maps that Nassau County publishes that indicate the likely level that seawater will reach in the event of various intensities of hurricanes, if we experience a category 4 hurricane at high tide, the water is expected to rise to a level halfway between Sunrise Highway and Southern State Parkway (www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/oem/Docs/PDF/nys_storm_surge_zones.pdf).

And I don't have to remind you of the damage Sandy caused. I think the significance of Sandy really struck home with me when so many people had to go to the emergency shelter at Nassau Community College, and the shelter was manned by volunteers from the Red Cross.

So rising sea levels are a very real threat to Long Island, and decelerating the increase in global warming must be a top priority for us.

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 **BIRD WALKS** 
 Joe Landesberg

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Joe at 467-9498. Directions and lists of what we've seen may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 26 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner |
| Nov. 2 | Alley Pond Park (76th Ave. parking lot) |
| Nov. 9 | Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.) |
| Nov. 16 | Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner |
| Nov. 23 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) |
| Nov. 30 | Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3) |
| Dec. 7 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner |



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

WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP (Sat., Dec. 6, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.) Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge Visitor Center for a slide program on waterfowl, and hike the beach and woods to view the many species of ducks and geese that spend winter in Jamaica Bay. Contact Don to register. Partnership with NYC Audubon.

MONTAUK (Jan. 9–11). Spend a weekend at the luxurious Manor House and visit many natural areas during the quiet but peak birding season. See seals, scoters, loons and lots more. Cost: \$395 incl. 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, a star watch plus free pickup at LIRR station.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACHWALK. Start off the new year with a brisk hike along the Rockaway/Breezy Point shoreline. Meet 11 A.M. at Bldg. 1, Fort Tilden, Queens. Free champagne, coffee, cake afterwards. Contact Don.

COSTA RICA WILDLIFE (February 21 – March 1). Stay at comfortable lodges and visit best birding areas and national parks. See macaws, toucans, hummingbirds and the resplendent quetzal as well as monkeys, sloths and other wildlife. For more info, contact Don.

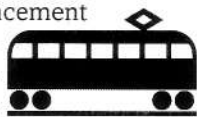
For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 474-0896, donriep@gmail.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.littoralsociety.org.

NASSAU HUB TRANSIT PLAN

SSAS has been represented at meetings concerning the development of the Nassau Hub for quite a few years. The recently completed *Nassau Hub Study Alternatives Analysis Report* can be found at www.nassauhub.com; below are your editor's excerpts from its 236 pages.

In 2003, the Nassau County Planning Department began efforts to position the County to be eligible for federal grants related to improving, upgrading, and extending the transit network within the County, specifically the Study Area. The results were documented in the 2006 *Nassau Hub Major Investment Study Final Report* (the MIS) that examined and analyzed the demographic, economic, and transportation issues within an area known as the "Nassau Hub." The MIS concluded that the County should further study potential transit and related land use improvements.

The Nassau Hub Primary Study Area occupies an approximately 11.7 square-mile area in the heart of Nassau County. Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) 3, Modern Streetcar, is recommended for advancement for further, more detailed study. Modern streetcars are steel-wheeled passenger vehicles that generally operate along tracks laid in the street right-of-way and are typically powered by overhead electric catenary wires. The alignment would turn eastbound onto the south side of



Charles Lindbergh Boulevard on exclusive right-of-way and continue to Museum Row and the Nassau Community College West Campus, using the campus parking lots. A modern streetcar station would be located at Museum Row/Nassau Community College. The alignment would continue south past the Physical Education Complex, using the parking lots and vacant land, crossing Charles Lindbergh Boulevard to access the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

New traffic signals would be placed on Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard and Charles Lindbergh Boulevard to allow the transit vehicles to cross from the west side of Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard to the south side of Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, to avoid conflicts with southbound through-traffic on Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard and traffic using the Charles Lindbergh Boulevard ramp to southbound Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard.

Along Charles Lindbergh Boulevard there are jogging/bike paths. In sections of Charles Lindbergh Boulevard where an exclusive right-of-way is proposed, these jogging/bike paths would be shifted or relocated to accommodate an exclusive transit right-of-way. The alignment would continue southbound, traveling through the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum property to Hempstead Turnpike. A modern streetcar station would be located at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum property. Along Fulton Avenue in the Village of Hempstead, either the curb lanes or a dedicated center lane would be used for transit vehicles. This operation would require taking some on-street parking. Alternative 3 would have 14 stations. The average station spacing is 0.5 mile.

The Initial Operating Segment (IOS) that has been identified for first-phase implementation has been defined as a financially feasible first phase of the LPA for near-term implementation. The IOS is also proposed as an early phase to provide a reasonable timeframe for some large-scale development proposals, which are currently in flux along segments of the LPA corridor, to become better defined. The IOS is proposed to operate initially using premium bus technology, similar to bus rapid transit (BRT) vehicles. When proposed developments are completed and funding is identified and available, the balance of the LPA alignment would be constructed and BRT/premium bus vehicles would be replaced with modern streetcars. The IOS would have 10 stations, with an average station spacing of 0.5 mile.



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

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BROOKSIDE PRESERVE FALL CLEANUP

On **Sunday, November 16**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its 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. PDF files of our trail guide and children's freshwater wetland guide can be downloaded from 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 High School). Please bring work gloves and spend an hour or two with us.


ALBANY LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Editor's note: The following summary from Audubon New York's Executive Director, Erin Crotty, was sent to chapter leaders at the beginning of last summer. Three newsletters later, we have room for it here.


The New York State Legislature concluded its 2014 session on June 20, 2014, and I wanted to provide you with an update on how our priorities fared this session. Overall, we had a productive session. Below please find the highlights.


Successes


 *Increased Funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and Landowner Incentive Program (LIP).* As we reported in April, through our advocacy we were able to redirect funding in the EPF to support the state's LIP for grassland birds! In addition, through our collective efforts we were able to increase the EPF to \$162 million (up from \$153 million last year) and see more funding go toward our priorities, including the ZBGA [Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums] program, open space, and farmland protection.

 *NY Works Funding for State Parks and DEC.* In addition to the EPF successes, we also helped advocate for NY Works funding for State Parks and DEC [Department of Environmental Conservation] infrastructure projects. \$1.5 million has been dedicated to natural resource stewardship projects at State Parks, supporting several that directly advance our Audubon in the Parks priorities, such


as invasive species removal and grassland habitat restoration at Green Lakes State Park [east of Syracuse]. Additionally, \$6 million was dedicated to infrastructure improvements to improve outdoor access at DEC lands, with new funding for land acquisition in, and creation of an informational kiosk at, the Fort Edward Grasslands Important Bird Area [north of Saratoga Springs].


 *The Community Risk and Resiliency Act.* Through the efforts of Audubon and our partners, we were able to secure passage of this comprehensive measure that will require that state infrastructure, financing, and permitting decisions take into account future climate risks, including sea level rise, storm surges, and flooding, during the application and review process. It also requires the DEC to develop regulations to establish formal sea level rise projections in the state. Earlier this month [June], we issued an action alert on this important bill with over 1,000 Audubon members taking action! In the coming weeks we will be encouraging the Governor to sign this bill into law [signed September 22].

 *Legislation to Reduce Light Pollution.* Another priority bill that passed will establish new lighting efficiency standards and require full cutoff lights for outdoor lighting in the state. We have worked for several years to advance this bill, which we believe will help reduce impacts to migrating birds. We have had a long-standing policy resolution on this issue [referring to the chapter-approved agenda that Audubon New York pursues] and it's exciting to achieve progress. We'll also be working to encourage the Governor to sign this measure into law [hasn't yet].

 *Trap, Neuter & Return Bill Stalled.* Late in the session, legislation was introduced in both houses that would have provided funding for the practice of Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) for management of feral cats. We have long been concerned with this untested practice at managing feral cat colonies. While the bill passed the Assembly, thanks to strategic pressure from our staff and chapters, and an untraditional alliance of concerned organizations, the measure was not voted on in the Senate.

Progress But Not Passage

 *Forestry Stewardship and Habitat Conservation Tax Credit.* This measure passed the Senate but was not acted on by the Assembly. The bill would establish new income tax incentives for forest and agricultural landowners to enroll in sustainable forestry or other conservation programs. We will be working to advocate that this type of program be included in next year's state budget.

 *Natural Gas Infrastructure Mapping.* The Assembly passed this bill, which would have required the New York Department of Public Service to use GIS information to map natural gas associated infrastructure, including smaller volume gas gathering lines, and to share this information with DEC for planning purposes to reduce habitat fragmentation. The Senate did not act on this measure, and we will be working with the sponsors to advance this legislation next session.

