# OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 48. NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-AUGUST 2018

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Paul Stessel & Bill Belford

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018

**TIME**: 7:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: Dr. Douglas Robinson, Jr.

TOPIC: Bird Migration: Not All Those Who Wander

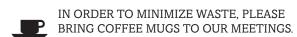
Are Lost

The annual movement of animals across great distances is rooted deep in the biology and evolutionary history of those travelers. We'll explore the timing of migration, the factors that prompt annual trips, and the evolution of migration in those greatest of voyagers, birds!

Dr. Douglas Robinson, Jr., is a behavioral ecologist who has studied bird behavior and its evolutionary and ecological underpinnings for over 20 years. His investigations of Eastern Bluebirds, Bald Eagles, and American Crows have yielded insights into the factors that influence decision-making based upon environmental and social conditions. Doug is a tenured faculty member at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, where he teaches courses in ecology, evolution, animal behavior, conservation biology in New Zealand, and anatomy and physiology. Join us!

**Pre-Meeting Book Discussion.** Arrive a half-hour early to participate in a discussion led by R. U. Abyrdar II (aka Paul Stessel) of the book that he and Sy Schiff reviewed in the previous *Skimmer*. This month we have two books to discuss, *One More Warbler: A Life with Birds* by Victor Emanuel with S. Kirk Walsh and *Fastest Things on Wings*, which was reviewed by Frank Scoblete.

**Parking Lots.** In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the gas station that borders Sunrise Hwy.



SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!

#### THE RETURN OF THE SSAS BIRDATHON

Michael Sperling

Back in May of 2012, SSAS conducted its 25th annual Birdathon, during which our most dedicated participants spent about 18 hours trying to identify as many species as possible from 5 P.M. on a Friday until 5 P.M. the next day. In good years, a team could record over 130 species while visiting about a half-dozen locations during the peak of spring migration.

We're pleased to announce that Joe Landesberg, with coleaders Bill Belford and Bill Clifford (B&B below), are bringing the Birdathon (a National Audubon Society invention) back to SSAS. You can participate, regardless of birding skills, by joining Joe and/or the two Bills for one or more of the walks listed below, and/or by pledging to donate dollars or cents per species to SSAS (or a flat amount, which we hope will be in dollars). Joe has made a few changes to how the Birdathon operates, expanding it to Sunday while eliminating the Friday evening and Saturday dawn hours, and using a combined species list from all of the walks listed below to determine the number of species identified.

To sign up, send e-mail to landesbe@adelphi.edu, identifying the location(s) where you intend to join us and/or your pledge.

Here are Joe's rules, followed by the schedule:

- ① Tabulate all the species seen.
- ② Count the numbers seen, if you can.
- ③ Get a sponsor with a commitment to donate \$X.XX for each bird species (you can sponsor yourself).
  - 4 E-mail your results to Joe for total 2-day tabulation.

#### Saturday, May 12

- Marine Nature Study Area (Oceanside) at 9 A.M. (led by B&B; Joe will be at Alley Pond Park, doing our Birdathon while enrolled in Joe Giunta's series of five Saturday bird walks benefitting Brooklyn Botanic Garden)
- Cow Meadow Park & Preserve (Freeport) at approx. noon (B&B)
  - Cammanns Pond (Merrick) at 3 P.M. (B&B)
- → Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at approx. 2:30 P.M. (Joe)

#### Sunday, May 13

- Point Lookout Town Park (and Lido Preserve) at 9 A.M. (our usual Sunday morning bird walk led by Joe)
  - Hempstead Lake State Park at 9 A.M. (B&B)
  - Jones Beach West End 2 at noon (Joe)
  - Mill Pond Park at noon (B&B)
  - ▼ Massapequa Preserve at 3 P.M. (B&B and Joe)

# BIRD WALK5 ✓

Joe Landesberg

All walks start at **9** a.m.; no walk if it rains. Call me at 467-9498 in case of questionable conditions or for other info. Check www.facebook.com/SSAudubon (you don't need to have a Facebook account) for cancellations, changes, and lists from recent walks. Directions and lists of what we've seen this decade are at ssaudubon.org.

Apr. 22	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Apr. 29	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
•	side of Merrick Rd.)
May 6*	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
-	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
May 13	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and
_	Lido Preserve afterwards)
May 20	Hempstead Plains**
May 27	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
June 3	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
	Summer Break
Aug. 19	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
Aug. 26	Mill Pond Park (see above)
*Diagramate, Due to read elegings for the Lang Island	

\*Please note: Due to road closings for the Long Island Marathon, we've changed the May 6 location that was listed in last month's Skimmer, postponing Hempstead Plains by two weeks.

\*\*For Hempstead Plains: Take the Meadowbrook State Parkway to Exit M4 (also used for Hempstead Turnpike/ Nassau Coliseum). Continue on the exit road to Charles Lindbergh Blvd. west. Go a short distance on the boulevard to the first exit on the right, which is for Nassau Community College's East Campus parking lots. After turning, park on the right along the entrance to Hempstead Plains and its Education Center. See www.friendsofhp.org/site/index.php?id=9 for a link to Google's map.

# ALSO HAPPENING ON MAY 5

As usual, our annual Central Park walk (see next page) is the same day as the much more recently established "I Love My Park Day" in NY. If you're not heading into Manhattan with us, check out https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day/find-event to register for the volunteer opportunities at Hempstead Lake State Park (a cleanup at the Northeast Pond), Jones Beach State Park (installation of snow fence and beach mats, plus a cleanup), and elsewhere.

#### **SSAS COMMENTS ON OFFSHORE WIND POWER**

Editor's note: One of the many issues that SSAS's board continues to pursue with state and federal government officials is the future installation of wind turbines off Long Island's South Shore. In early April, we submitted comments (drafted by Brien and Jim, with input from Guy and your editor) on New York State's Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement; they are excerpted below.

The DGEIS is a preliminary document that overall correctly defers to site-specific environmental impact statements and identifies areas necessary for study regarding birds and wildlife.

While the DGEIS recognizes that the area for Offshore Wind Energy Development (OWED) overlaps with the Atlantic Flyway from Maryland to Maine, it omits study of the Flyway from Cumulative Impacts. The displacement, disturbance, and loss of habitat for birds over such a large area, especially at the crucial time of migration, when diminished foraging opportunities and the extra energy expenditure for alternate routes can be fatal, need to be emphasized and studied for mitigation. The negative impacts will be compounded when commercial and recreational vessels are displaced into wildlife habitat.

According to the DGEIS, the major routes of bird migration are closer to shore than the planned turbines. However, the DGEIS also recognizes that storms may force birds farther out to sea where they may encounter turbines. Moreover, there is no guarantee that other states along the Atlantic Flyway will be as careful as we hope New York will be in identifying avian "hotspots" to be avoided. Therefore, we would like to emphasize that cumulative impacts on birds be studied as completely as possible, and take into consideration the totality of wind farm projects that will be located along the Atlantic Flyway.

In sum, we are optimistic about being able to support specific OWEDs that are planned for areas chosen by NYSERDA [New York State Energy Research & Development Authority — ed.] and/or BOEM [the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management — ed.], provided that they undertake the most complete wildlife studies, especially bird studies. Monitoring must be done during the entire life of any OWED, and if negative impacts do indeed occur, they must be mitigated in some meaningful way. We recommend that the DGEIS incorporate these points about monitoring and mitigation as addressed in Wing Goodale's report, Offshore Wind Energy Development and Birds in New York: Managing risk and identifying data gaps. Goodale's report was produced for the South Shore Audubon Society and New York City Audubon with a grant from the Moore Charitable Foundation and National Audubon Society, and is available at www.ssaudubon.org/pdfs/Offshore-Wind-Energy-Development-and-Birds-in-NY.pdf.

# OUR EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK

On **Saturday, May 5**, SSAS is planning to be in Central Park for our annual (weather permitting) early May bird walk. As usual, Chris Cooper (who was featured in HBO's 2012 documentary, "Birders: The Central Park Effect," and traces his birding roots to SSAS) has again agreed to lead us through the twisting, hilly maze of the Ramble and adjoining areas of the park.



In previous years, we've recorded from 31 to 70-plus species in under three hours. A year ago we had 47 species, 15 of which were warblers. Highlights included three vireo species, Chimney Swift (pictured), Veery, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Cape May Warbler.

The cost of the walk is \$5, which is a tax-deductible donation to SSAS (refundable if we rain out or you cancel in advance). Please send your check payable to South Shore Audubon Society, along with your phone number and e-mail address, to Joanne Del Prete, 20 Ceil Pl., Bethpage, NY 11714-4503 (jdelprete47@optonline.net, phone 433-0739).

Some of us will be aboard the local Babylon line train that is due in Penn Station at 8:14. We aim to depart from Penn's LIRR waiting room at 8:30 to meet Chris at Belvedere Castle at around 9:15. Please buy a MetroCard for the subway. You can bring lunch, buy lunch in the park or elsewhere, or head back home after the walk if you prefer. Joanne's cell (476-3761) will be on that day only. Join us!

Staircase Alert: Our usual route to Belvedere Castle includes a 30-step climb from the 79th Street Transverse.

New-York Historical Society Exhibit. If you're not pooped, and since this year there won't be any local NHL or NBA playoff games to hurry home for, you may want to do an afternoon visit to 170 Central Park West (at 77th St.) to see "Feathers: Fashion and the Fight for Wildlife," whose three-month run ends on July 15 and is in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and New York City Audubon. The exhibit includes 14 watercolors by John James Audubon of species that were saved by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which has been in effect for 100 years. See www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/ feathers-fashion-and-fight-wildlife for details; see http:// www.audubon.org/news/the-migratory-bird-treaty-actexplained to learn about the law and current threats to it (for the latter, you can also look at the February Skimmer, which is posted at ssaudubon.org).

## NEXT STOP: MASSAPEQUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

SSAS's display case exhibit has now moved to both branches of the Massapequa Public Library, thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Hametz and Betty Belford. In May, it's scheduled to move to the Island Park Public Library.

#### **ኢ**ጵ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ኢጵ

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 Memorial Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M., usually on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May, 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. 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 last month's Skimmer are:

Phone: (516) 931-1445 Fax: (516) 931-1467

E-Mail: lenny@konskerandcompany.com

#### LEONARD G. KONSKER CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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# HOW TO REPORT BANDED SHOREBIRDS

Reporting re-sightings of banded birds plays an important role in shorebird conservation. See http://ny.audubon.org/news/how-report-banded-shorebirds for information about the various bands used on Piping Plovers and other Long Island shorebirds.

#### THE FUTURE OF BIRDS IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Brien Weiner

On March 21, the National Audubon Society released its study "The Future of Birds in Our National Parks," a companion study to its 2014 "Birds and Climate Change" report. That report concluded, alarmingly, that more than half of North American bird species were predicted to lose more than half of their current climatic range by 2080. The new study, led by NAS and the National Park Service, highlights the need not only to increase protection and management of our public lands for birds and wildlife, but also to reduce carbon emissions through energy conservation, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration. Unfortunately, our current administration is working against both ends of the equation — reducing our public lands and increasing fossil fuel production.

On average, 23% of bird species in each of 274 national parks could be completely different by 2050 if climate change continues at its current pace. The study defines "climate suitability" as the range of temperatures, precipitation, and seasonal shifts each species needs to survive, based on 30 years of observations from the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and North American Breeding Bird Survey. For some species, climate change may allow them to overwinter in a park when they previously migrated, or to colonize a park where they currently do not live. For others, climate change may force them to adapt or be extirpated from the park.

The major findings of the study are as follows:

All parks had more species likely to colonize than be extirpated in winter. As development consumes our land-scape, our national parks will become increasingly critical sanctuaries for birds.

Twenty-six percent of parks had more species likely to be extirpated than colonize in summer. Warming temperatures will force birds to migrate north and to higher elevations, especially to raise their sensitive chicks.

An average of seven previously migratory species may overwinter in a given park by 2050, either by remaining in the park year-round or by cutting their migration short.

The study used internationally recognized lowemissions and high-emissions pathways, and unsurprisingly concluded that the more emissions were reduced, the less drastic the species turnover. The percent of parks with more than 25% of summer bird species in danger of extirpation by 2050 was 8% for the low-emissions pathway and 25% for the high-emissions pathway. The most change was seen in the Northeast and Midwest.

The study lists a number of caveats, since climate suitability alone does not determine whether a species will colonize or be extirpated from a park. These caveats include biotic interactions (e.g., predation and competition), species' evolutionary adaptive capacity (i.e., the ability to evolve), life history traits, behavioral adjustments in response to climate change, habitat quality, food

abundance, and absence of ecological processes that create/maintain habitats. Avian distribution and habitat are also affected by other climatic impacts, such as sea-level rise, wildfires, stronger hurricanes, earlier snowmelt, and invasive species. Ultimately, monitoring should inform conservation action.

Climate-informed park management should focus on increasing habitat connectivity to facilitate movement, habitat restoration, protected area expansion, managing natural disturbances, and reducing stressors; more intensive actions could include captive breeding, reintroduction, and translocation.

The report website is located at www.audubon.org/climate/national-parks. It features a summary, an FAQ, the research article, and individual park profiles. The profiles include analysis for each species found in the park, based on NPS Inventory & Monitoring data and eBird data

Two national parks in our area included in the study are the Gateway National Recreation Area, which includes Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, and the Fire Island National Seashore. At Gateway, 40 species may be extirpated by 2050, while 42 species are potential colonizers. Gateway is or may become home to 33 species that are highly sensitive to climate change across their range. (Climatesensitive species are defined as those projected to lose climate suitability in over 50% of their current range in North America in summer and/or winter by 2050.) Birders who flock to East Pond in summer to see shorebird migrants such as Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit (pic-

tured), Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher may find them to be colonizers in winter. And although it is hard to imagine the West Pond and Garden trails at Jamaica Bay without their signature summer sights



and sounds, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Tree Swallow, and Gray Catbird may be extirpated.

At Fire Island, 32 species may be extirpated and 49 may colonize; it is or may become home to 33 climate-sensitive species. For hawk watchers, Black Vultures, Mississippi Kites, and Red-Shoulder Hawks may become common sights. For birders who like to log species of sparrow, Vesper, LeConte's, and Lincoln's may be found in winter, while Chipping, Savannah, Song, and Swamp may no longer be found in summer. Gateway falls in the intermediate turnover category, and Fire Island in high turnover. The parks should be managed accordingly, with a focus on climate-sensitive species, as the parks become critical to their safety and survival.

#### **BOOKS FOR BIRDERS**

R. U. Abyrdar II with Sy Schiff

This month's book is more than a simple guide to our surroundings — a combination of Hempstead Plains and Hempstead Lake State Park! Much more than a guide. As we move into summer, we need a book that presents a crucial case for the preservation of the natural, wild side

of our own Long Island. It will make you an expert (?) on Long Island's natural treasures by supplying the what, where, and when needed in order to grasp a personal appreciation for our island's greatest gifts! I've just introduced *Exploring the Other Is*-



land: a seasonal guide to nature on Long Island by John Turner (second edition, revised and expanded). But... I'm exhausted so let me give Sy the pen...

This review will be a change from just reviewing bird books! Instead, it covers things we encounter on our birding trips. There are insects, turtles, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, butterflies, and dragonflies, among other forms of our natural world. Also, birds are not neglected! The author is a native Long Islander, so the material covered, as the title indicates, is local and mostly available to see although some are only on the East End.

When in the field, the birds aren't the only "living things" we are surrounded by. But you have to be aware and LOOK! This book helps us know what we're looking at. It is not comprehensive and does not substitute for a slew of field guides. However, it does alert us to what's out there. It also gives a bit of background to perk our interest. So, when the birds aren't being cooperative, a day or morning trip can still become an interesting and insightful one.

The book is divided by season, with 41 short chapters of several pages, covering lots of different things. Some cover single items and others a group. The publishing date is 2011, so a few adjustments need to be made. Each chapter ends with a series of locations to explore.

This is a book covering many disjointed things. So there is no running continuity. Consequently, one can skip around and look at something that piques your curiosity before moving on to something else. After the common names of objects, the author gives the scientific name with an explanation of the derivation (from the Latin or Greek). My high school language classes — a FEW years ago — were LATIN, so I was right on it!

After the first two chapters, on spring wildflowers and amphibians, I skipped over to horseshoe crabs. (I found out why and what their blood is used for — and removing it doesn't kill them.) The book has chapters on the less-common flowering plants, so you can read about cranberries, orchids, cactus (prickly pear), parasitic plants, insect-eating plants, and witch hazel. Atlantic white cedar, as opposed to the very common red cedar, is scarce and you'll find out why.

There's lots more. But finally, the birds! The section on herons covers all the common ones with a bit of info on their nesting preferences. The fashion trade gets mentioned and the revival of the egrets. I am familiar with their northern nesting movement, but didn't appreciate the fact that the small herons had a similar movement. The chapter on whales and whale watching includes a summary of pelagic birds that can be seen on whalewatching trips. Winter bird visitors are mentioned. Shorebirds and warblers each are covered, but it's hard to do more than just brush through such large family groups. Not all birds in each family are mentioned. There's more.

After reading this book, my curiosity was piqued. So, I intend to take a look at what I was missing out there and take a closer look at things I only casually looked at.

As a footnote: Many chapters end with a Haiku poem (3 lines, 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables). I miss SSAS's Max Wheat! If he were still here, he and I would have had a lively discussion about poems and the following from me for this review:

A nature book Full of insights Outdoor discovery Whew! Just read... and ENJOY!!!



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## NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS BY ZIP CODE

At www.audubon.org/native-plants, you can enter your 5-digit Zip code to use Audubon's native plants database and explore the best plants for birds in your area. By entering your e-mail address, you'll receive an e-mailed list of the native plants you've selected, get additional tips on creating your bird-friendly habitat, and help Audubon keep track of your contributions to its efforts to get 1 million native plants for birds in the ground.

The database is searchable by type of plant, what the plant offers birds (nectar, fruit, butterflies, caterpillars, nuts, and/or seeds), and type of bird.

#### **TOWARD A PLASTIC BAG BAN**

Jim Brown

On March 13, our membership meeting featured a showing of the film "Bag It," a very informative and entertaining documentary dealing with the severe problems created by plastic, especially the ubiquitous plastic bags. The film was brought to us by George Povall, founder and director of the Long Island organization, All Our Energy. After the screening, he led a spirited discussion of the issues raised by the movie. "Bag It" details the myriad ways in which plastic, created from petroleum compounds, harms wildlife and damages both land and sea environments.

Particularly haunting were scenes in the film of albatrosses (pictured) of Midway Island, dead from ingesting

discarded plastic. Albatrosses at Midway, numbering about 1.5 million individual birds, often mistake plastic that has found its way into the Pacific Ocean for food, particu-



larly their favorite prey, squid. Adult birds nesting on the atoll fly up to a thousand miles and return to Midway, only to regurgitate the plastic into the mouths of their young. High mortality among these unfortunate adult and juvenile birds is the result, as more than 10,000 pounds of plastic is brought to the island [1,300 miles northwest of Honolulu — ed.] in this way every year.

Sea turtles, many of them endangered, also suffer from plastic pollution of the planet's oceans. "Bag It" dramatically demonstrates how closely floating single-use plastic bags mimic jellyfish and are thereby eaten by turtles and other marine wildlife. Digestive blockages and death can result. Marine wildlife, exposed to discarded items such as plastic bags, also often become entangled in the floating debris.

Plastic pollution has become a problem for humans, wildlife, and the environment in general. Originating on land, the discarded, virtually indestructible plastic objects often make it into our waterways and oceans. Though some plastic products may be useful and necessary, others such as single-use plastic bags are harmful scourges. The day before our screening of "Bag It," the Village of Sea Cliff passed a law to regulate the use of these types of bags. Beginning on April 22 this year, Earth Day, shoppers will be charged at least five cents for each singleuse plastic bag they request. A similar law was passed in the City of Long Beach last April, also enacted in order to encourage people to bring their own reusable bags to stores when shopping. George Povall and his group were active in working for both the Sea Cliff and Long Beach initiatives. Suffolk County also has a similar law. These ordinances are shown to be effective, limiting the amount of discarded plastic bags.

These laws regulating single-use plastic bags are good first steps toward enacting a total ban on their use. To

further this goal, the South Shore Audubon Society has joined with over 180 organizations to urge Governor Cuomo and other New York officials to support a "law to reduce the use of plastic bags, using California as a model." Organizations urging a ban of the worst type of plastic bag, the thin single-use plastic bag (under 2.5 mils), include Riverkeeper, Operation SPLASH, NYPIRG, American Littoral Society, All Our Energy, Green Party of New York, and two chapters of Surfrider Foundation. The prospective New York State law, like California's current law, would involve a ban on the thin plastic bags and "a minimum 10-cent fee for paper & reusable, thicker plastic bags." The letter signed by SSAS and the other organizations ends by urging the Governor and Legislature "to take immediate action to reduce litter and the fossil fuels that create them, save tax dollars, and protect the environment and wildlife by enacting plastic bag legislation similar to California in 2018. We look forward to your support and to working with you on this important environmental issue."

Hopefully we will soon enact a statewide ban of singleuse plastic bags. If France, Ethiopia, Morocco, and California can enact bans, it should not be impossible for New York to do likewise! The need to prevent the "death by plastic" we see on the Midway atoll and indeed throughout our oceans demands concerted and effective action on our part.

**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.

#### **BE A GOOD EGG**

Laura McCarthy and Amanda Pachomski

Are you interested in being a "Be a Good Egg" beach steward? Each summer, Audubon volunteers work on

some of the busiest beach days to help educate the public about sharing the shore with our breeding shorebirds. In SSAS's area, on-the-beach outreach events will take place at Jones Beach Field 2, Lido Beach Town Park, and Point Lookout Beach Town Park during



select weekends in June and July. If you'd like to help or learn more, please let us know by contacting NYcoast@ audubon.org. The schedule will be announced by Audubon New York very soon.

#### SHOREBIRD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Town of Hempstead's Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in ensuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest between Point Lookout and Atlantic Beach. Volunteers will help prevent disturbances to nesting areas, will record the presence of plover chicks and any incidents of predation, and can give beachgoers educational literature pertaining to Piping Plovers and terns. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through



August. If you're interested and are able to volunteer regularly, please contact longtime SSAS member John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 486-5272.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018-2019 BOARD

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 8, officers will be elected for our next fiscal year and directors will be elected to three-year terms. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee (chaired by Jim Brown, with Joe Landesberg and Gail Brown) recommends the following candidates: Michael Sperling, president; Brien Weiner, vice president; Joe Landesberg, treasurer; Alene Scoblete, recording secretary; Bill Clifford, director; and Frank Scoblete, director.

Directors & Officers Liability Insurance. In accordance with state law, this paragraph informs our members prior to the election that SSAS obtained D&O insurance for its board at a cost of \$878.

## **VICTORIES FOR BIRDS IN BUDGET BILL**

Editor's note: This article appeared in the April 2018 Audubon Advisory. You can sign up for alerts at action. audubon.org.

After months of negotiations, Congress passed a spending bill for the 2018 fiscal year in late March, rejecting proposed budget cuts from the administration and numerous harmful policy riders that threatened vulnerable habitats and species. Instead, the omnibus spending bill increased or maintained funding levels for vital conservation programs that will benefit birds and other wildlife.

The spending bill increased funding for many programs within the Department of the Interior that are vital for birds, including an additional \$25 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and increased support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. For the first time, it included funds to help restore the Delaware River Basin. It also included important advancements in western water conservation to benefit the Colorado River Basin, including a more than 40% increase for WaterSMART grants that fund projects that help communities conserve and use water more efficiently.

Congress rejected the White House budget proposal to zero out funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's regional ecosystem restoration programs. Instead, the bill provides for continued funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Chesapeake Bay cleanup, and increases funding for the Long Island Sound and Gulf of Mexico restoration programs. Congress also reversed course on years of declining support for critical conservation programs carried out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For a decade, Congress has chipped away at programs that help farmers preserve habitat on their lands, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program; the bill passed last month leaves the current funding in place. It also includes \$150 million for the USDA's Watershed program to help protect and secure water resources in the west. And at the Department of Energy, the bill increases funding for energy

efficiency and renewable energy, with strong increases for the solar energy program.

Critically, the final bill rejected numerous antienvironment riders, including language that would have put the old-growth rainforest of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska at risk of more clearcut logging, rollbacks to the Endangered Species Act and removal of ESA protections for key species, disastrous projects such as the Yazoo Pumps proposal that would have drained 200,000 acres of wetlands in the Mississippi River Delta, and several provisions that weakened the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH **DISPLACED YOUNG WILDLIFE**

Most young wildlife that you come across are not orphaned. The parents are temporarily away finding food or are staying away to avoid attracting predators and will later return. If you are concerned that a bird or animal may be orphaned, watch from a distance for a while to see if the parents return. If you have to chase it, it doesn't need your help!

A nestling songbird is only partially feathered and cannot yet run, hop, or move about easily. It should be returned to the nest. If you can't find or reach the nest, make one from a berry box or strainer (something with drainage), line it with grasses, and secure it up in a tree close to where you found the bird. The parents will continue to feed it.

If you are certain a young songbird is orphaned, leave a message for Volunteers for Wildlife at 674-0982 (during hospital hours) or e-mail info@volunteersforwildlife.org (after hours) for assistance and follow the emergency instructions at www.volunteersforwildlife.org/baby-birds.

#### **^** OUR 47TH ANNUAL DINNER IS ON JUNE 13

Please join us — see inserted sheet for information.

## **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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### 2017-2018 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

## **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 these 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.

<b>Renewing?</b> Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.
<b>******************</b>
$\square$ Donations to SSAS are always welcome! $\S$
Yes, I'd like to join: ☐ SSAS only ☐ National Audubon too
NAME:
ADDRESS:
(Zip+4)
PHONE NO.:
E-MAIL:
Chapter Code R15 (South Shore Audubon Society)