

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2019

NEXT MEETING

DATE:	Tuesday, November 12, 2019
TIME:	7:30 р.м.
PLACE:	Freeport Memorial Library
	144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKER:	John Potente

TOPIC: Life History of the Monarch Butterfly

Join us for a slide and video program that will go into the fine details about the monarch butterfly's caterpillar state, chrysalis, and migration. Our guest speaker spent months and months on his hands and knees in his threeacre backyard filming monarchs.

The monarch has been an angelic and enigmatic figure for local naturalists, artists, teachers, and dreamers ever since humans first set foot on Long Island. Its brief life travels from a tiny egg on a leaf to a crawling caterpillar to a migrating champion, yet its endurance as a species is being challenged by loss of its habitat and chemical toxins. While its numbers are declining, there is a growing concern and effort on the part of educators and gardeners to provide it with welcoming spaces and host plants.

John Potente became the first director of the American Chestnut Foundation on Long Island in 1995, founded Native America three years later, was an executive board member and editor for the Long Island Botanical Society, and served on Suffolk County's Council on Environmental Quality. He wrote *Tidal Marshes of Long Island, New York* (2010) and *Ode to an Egg* (2018, based on "Humpty Dumpty"). John instructs schoolteachers about LI's natural history, including the life history of the monarch butterfly. He first appeared as our guest speaker 20 years ago, with a program about woodpeckers.

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(s) that he & Sy Schiff and/or Frank Scoblete reviewed in the previous *Skimmer*. This meeting's discussion will be about "The Birds" (the short story by Daphne du Maurier and the Hitchcock movie).

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 Highway.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS. SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!

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.

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE FALL CLEANUP

On Sunday, November 10, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its fall cleanup at Brookside Preserve, with help from The Waldorf School of Garden City. Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that SSAS rescued from development and manages. PDF files of our trail guide and children's freshwater wetland guide can be downloaded from www.ssaudubon.org. The preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin Creek; park at the main border, along Milburn 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.

BAN INTENTIONAL BALLOON RELEASES – WHAT GOES UP WILL COME DOWN AND KILL WILDLIFE Brien Weiner

On September 16, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Laura Gillen proposed a ban on the intentional release of balloons, following similar bans in Suffolk County, the Town of East Hampton, the Town of Southampton, and the City of Long Beach. Releasing balloons is essentially tossing trash in the sky for it to litter beaches, clog waterways, and kill wildlife when it comes down. Nevertheless, on September 24, the Hempstead Town Council voted unanimously to adjourn the issue until November 12, after Election Day, on the absurd grounds that children who accidentally release balloons could be jailed. The bill clearly defines intentional release: "No person, firm, corporation or other entity shall intentionally release, organize the release of, condone the release of, or intentionally cause to be released into the atmosphere, any balloon within the Town of Hempstead."

Children are not being arrested in other jurisdictions on Long Island with balloon release bans.

Jim Brown spoke on the issue at the Town Board meeting on September 24. His testimony can be found at https://livestream.com/TownOfHempstead/events/ 5289393/videos/196814783 at 2:06:45. To make your voice heard on the issue, please attend and speak at the Town Board meeting on **November 12**, 10:30 A.M., at One Washington Street in Hempstead or call/e-mail the Town Council members (contact information is at https://hempsteadny.gov/council-members). Let them know that as they play politics, each adjournment means more dead birds.

Here are excerpts from testimony that I submitted to the Town Council members:

"Plastic pollution in our oceans has reached pandemic proportions and tragically impacts marine life. Last spring we saw news reports of dead whales with 48 to 88 pounds of plastic in their stomachs. Seabirds, which can accidentally ingest plastic while foraging for fish, are especially at risk. Plastic debris also affects birds much closer to home, on the coasts and even inland. American Oystercatchers have been found to ingest plastics and Ospreys are increasingly seen padding their nests with plastic debris, a sad sight in what should be a safe haven for their chicks.

"According to Osprey experts, plastic ribbon from balloons is one of the most dangerous, deadly, and common items found in Osprey nests: balloon ribbon can easily entangle a foot, leg, or wing of an adult or young Osprey.

"As an Audubon volunteer shorebird monitor for the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways, I regularly retrieve balloons that litter the beaches and threaten nesting shorebirds from Point Lookout to Lido West.

"Our shorebirds make the Town of Hempstead beaches unique and valuable resources and attractions. They are nesting grounds for some of our most spectacular birds as well as species most in need of conservation: the federally and state endangered Piping Plover, the federally endangered and state threatened Least Tern, the state threatened Common Tern, the state species of special concern Black Skimmer and Osprey, and the at-risk American Oystercatcher. Our well-known Black Skimmer colonies are the largest on Long Island and draw birders and photographers from across the country and around the world. Given the distance from Point Lookout to Lido West, the time from dawn to dusk seven days a week, and the numerous threats the nesting shorebirds face from feral cats, gulls, crows, dogs, vehicles on the beach, and beachgoers who do not observe fencing or who leave trash, it is difficult enough for limited TOH Conservation staff and volunteers to protect the birds. Balloons are an unnecessary additional hazard.

"Even balloons whose manufacturers claim they are biodegradable often take years to break still down, and they may release chemicals into the environment as they do. All released are released intentionally balloons, whether they as ugly litter. Balloons kill or not, return to earth countless animals and cause dangerous power outages. Moreover, they can travel thousands of miles and pollute the most remote and pristine places.

"Balloons are the highest-risk plastic debris items for seabirds. A recent study by Lauren Roman examined 1700 dead seabirds of various species. Balloons themselves, or fragments of balloons, represented just two percent of the ingested items, yet they are so deadly for seabirds that one out of five birds found with a balloon in its stomach died from it. By blocking up the gastrointestinal system, balloons can cause infections and even starvation. Roman believes that seabirds are actually attracted to balloons, which may appear to them like a tasty meal of squid. They may also

be attractive to sea turtles and other animals. In addition to gastrointestinal obstruction, animals can also die by becoming entangled in balloon cords.

"Nationwide, there is a growing awareness of the problem, and it has energized legislation in state governments. Bills to limit the intentional release of balloons are being aired in legislatures in Arizona, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, as well as here in New York. Texas is also considering a study on windblown and waterborne litter that would include helium balloons. These states would join California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia — all of which already have laws that ban or restrict launches.

"The Town of Hempstead should be in the vanguard of this movement and protect its rich biodiversity and unique wildlife. Latex and Mylar lighter-than-air balloons serve no practical purpose. Celebrations can be just as festive and ceremonies just as meaningful without the litter and death that results from releasing balloons. If a symbolic act is needed, why not plant a tree and give birds a home instead?"

🖌 BIRD WALKS 🖌

Joe Landesberg

All walks start at **9** A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. 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 in recent years are at www.ssaudubon.org.

Oct. 27	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station	
Nov. 3	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)	
Nov. 10	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north	
	side of Merrick Rd.)	
Nov. 17	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station	
Nov. 24	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern	
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)	
Dec. 1	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and	
	Lido Preserve afterwards)	
Dec. 8	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve	
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### DISCOUNTED AUDUBON CALENDARS AVAILABLE FROM 55AS

At our walks and meetings we'll be selling Audubon calendars at a bargain price of \$11 apiece and two for \$20.

The Songbirds and Other Backyard Birds Picture-a-Day Wall Calendar (list price \$15.99) features a photograph and related text at the top, plus smaller images throughout the tall grid. Samples of its 28 pages are at https:// www.pageaday.com/brands/audubon.

This year, the other calendar we're offering is the Birds in the Garden Wall Calendar (list price \$14.99), "with Audubon's tips for attracting more birds to your backyard."

# SHOREBIRD AND SEABIRD OUTREACH, STEWARDSHIP, AND MONITORING

Amanda Pachomski

*Editor's intro:* Amanda is the Long Island Bird Conservation Manager for our state office, Audubon New York. We're her local chapter.

From March through August, Audubon New York staff, chapters, volunteers, and partners worked tirelessly to protect the shorebirds and seabirds that nest on Long Island's beaches. Through the "Be a Good Egg" education and social marketing program, we strive to reduce the threat of human disturbance to birds like the Piping Plover (pictured). We visit local schools and host "on the beach" outreach events, during which we table at the entrances of priority Long Island beaches and encour-

age beachgoers to share the shore with birds. We teach people about coastal birds and ask beachgoers to sign the "Be a Good Egg" pledge to stay out of fenced-off nesting areas, keep trash off the beach, and to keep dogs off beaches with nesting birds. This year, volunteers, including members of South Shore Audubon Society, helped us lead additional outreach events, and Audubon chapters and partners helped expand the program to new schools and beaches. For the first time ever, we surpassed our annual goal of 3,000 pledges; a total of 4,029 Long Island beachgoers signed the pledge this summer! Also, Audubon New York and Town of Hempstead Conservation and Waterways staff engaged over 300 elementary students, including students from The Brandeis School [in Lawrence — ed.] and Winthrop Avenue School [in Bellmore], in a shorebird conservation lesson and "share the shore" sign-design contest. A subset of the students' designs were printed and installed at Lido Beach, Point Lookout, Nickerson, and Sunken Meadow beaches. In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, we also launched the new Beach Steward volunteer program at Jones Beach and Sunken Meadow State Parks. This new program trains volunteers to regularly monitor and protect nesting birds throughout the nesting season. We also led a series of hands-on conservation events, including two volunteer trips to Great Gull Island. In total, a record high of 231 volunteers participated in our coastal bird conservation programs this summer. Thank you so much to all of our partners and volunteers for making this program possible.

With help from volunteers, we stewarded and monitored breeding Piping Plovers, Least Terns, and Ameri-

can Oystercatchers at eight sites across Long Island. Unfortunately, this year our sites faced high predation pressure and productivity overall was low; the 20 pairs of Piping Plover we monitored fledged 20 chicks, for an average productivity of 1.00. But we do have some good news to share.



For the first time since 2015, Piping Plover chicks fledged at Tobay Beach! Their story begins in January 2019 in South Carolina, where Virginia Tech researchers carefully captured and marked a female Piping Plover with a metal band, orange color band, and a green flag with the alphanumeric code "E0A." That plover then migrated to New York, paired up with an unbanded mate at Tobay Beach, and laid four eggs in May. We protected the nest from human disturbance with symbolic fencing and signage, and installed a predator exclosure around the nest to keep red fox and other predators out. Luckily, three eggs hatched and all three chicks fledged, meaning they survived long enough to grow up and fly on their own. We're excited to see if green flag E0A will return to Tobay Beach next spring.

#### SCOBE SQUAWKS Birds and Bugs

Frank Scoblete

I love birds. I hate bugs.

Now there are people who love bugs; they study bugs; they touch them, hold them, they even talk lovingly to them; and these people are called entomologists or maniacs. The bugs I hate the most are mosquitoes; those flying little derringers of disease, death, and itchy lumps on one's skin.

I am a man beloved by mosquitoes. They attack me ceaselessly when I am outdoors or, if one or more have the brazenness to swoop into my house, they have an unquenchable lust to suck every last drop of my blood and leave me, the formerly scratching now lifeless husk, on my bed or floor.

Let me give you an example: My wife, the Beautiful AP, and I recently took a leisurely bird walk at our favorite nature preserve at Jamaica Bay. I lathered myself in diethyltoluamide (or deet as it is known in the trade) in the hopes that my vicious little enemies would leave me alone. That stuff is supposed to work, right?

Wrong! When I got home I had the traditional bites on my exposed skin but these monstrous creatures had even penetrated my clothing, thereby making the rest of my body look as if I were turning into the elephant man.

On that walk in that beautiful environment, I wanted to see birds, beautiful songbirds and those awesome raptors dominating the sky, but instead I succumbed to a flying, buzzing, biting bug. We left the walk somewhat early when I started moaning about my lot in life. I am (I will admit) a good moaner.

Why are mosquitoes attracted to me? It could be my sweet blood or blood type (type "O" is one of their de-

lights) but it can also be the type of bacteria I have on my skin. Yes, these little beasts are attracted to a certain type of bacteria that about 20% of us have. I must have it in abundance.



Mankind almost extinguished some of the most wonderful birds on our planet — the eagles, Ospreys (pictured), and Peregrine Falcons, among other raptors —



trying to eradicate disease by using DDT, which certainly did kill those little bugs that cause a host of diseases including Zika, West Nile, malaria, dengue, and the new one, eastern equine encephalitis, also known as EEE or Triple E.

Killing the mosquitoes back then was great (in my humble opinion) but discovering that our raptors were laying eggs with shells that were so brittle they broke apart before the offspring could get a wing-hold on life was not so great. What am I to do now? I'm buying mosquito-repellent clothing because I'm itching to never have them bite me again.

Visit Frank's web site at www.frankscoblete.com. His books are available from smile.amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, as e-books, and in bookstores.

Wendy Murbach

Our new member	rs since last month's <i>Skimmer</i> are:
Baldwin	Eric Schneider
East Meadow	Benjamin Bilder
Freeport	Amanda Laky, Mark Talty
Garden City	Richard Rutigliano, Anne Schoeffel
Glen Oaks	Antoine Gauthier
Hewlett	Marc Goodman
Hicksville	Leonard Mongiello
Island Park	Amy Singer
Levittown	Edward G. Bennett
Long Beach	Robert Knight
Oceanside	Mary Drangel
Point Lookout	Karen Federico
Rockville Centre	R. Grogan
Valley Stream	Linda Bassalay
Wantagh	J. N. Crowell & H. Greene
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#### TACKAPAUSHA HOLIDAY PARTY Marilyn Hamelz

Maniyii Haneiz

Join us at the South Shore Audubon Annual Holiday Party for Children with the Tackapausha Museum on Saturday afternoon, **December 14**. The party, also fun for adults, includes a wildlife show, nature crafts, and refreshments.

This special event is a great time to visit the museum with your children or grandchildren. Admission is \$5 per person (adults & children).

SSAS will be providing the refreshments and helping guests make bird feeder nature crafts. If you would like to enjoy the event as a South Shore Audubon volunteer, please contact me at 799-7189 or mwhametz@optonline. net.

Tackapausha Museum and Preserve is located at 2255 Washington Avenue (between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway) in Seaford, telephone 571-7443.

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#### COASTAL RESILIENCE - MANAGED RETREAT NOW OR UNMANAGED RETREAT LATER

Brien Weiner

Beach fill and jetties along our barrier islands; bulkheads, berms, and dams along the Mill River; storm surge gates proposed for Jamaica Bay and Jones Inlet — we can see the futile attempts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to protect our coast from rising seas and intensifying storms with gray infrastructure, right in our own backyards.

What we need is green infrastructure. Coastal wetlands provide \$23.2 billion of storm protection every year by slowing down wind and wave energy, and reducing erosion and flood damage. "Living shoreline" measures such as oyster reefs and native plants also have lower replacement costs, can grow with sea level rise, improve water quality by filtering pollutants, and support fisheries.

To document the urgency of protecting our wetlands and the necessity of natural infrastructure, Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology recently produced a Coastal Resilience film, which runs 12:25 and can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/

watch?v=TN7xNlm2PRc. The film was previewed at an event for local officials and Audubon chapter leaders that included a panel discussion with representatives from the Nature Conservancy, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Town of Brookhaven, and Audubon.

We have all seen the Audubon reports: two-thirds of North American birds, or 389 species, are vulnerable to extinction because of climate change; and almost onethird of North American birds, or 30 billion birds, have been lost since 1970. We've also seen the United Nations report: our oceans are not only rising but dying as hotter temperatures, deoxygenation, and acidification kill marine life. We can see the evidence in our own backyards too. Saltmarsh Sparrows at Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside are threatened by flooding and mercury contamination, which contribute to their 9% population decline per year. Piping Ployers at Nickerson Beach are forced to share the shore with feral cats from feeding stations; gulls, crows, and raccoons attracted by trash; dogs off-leash; and vehicles that disregard speed limits - the result is a productivity of less than the 1.5 fledglings per nest needed for a sustainable population. All these threats can be traced to loss of habitat from climate crisis and coastal development.

Birds are an indicator of the health of our environment, and we are imperiled too. Five of the most destructive hurricanes in the last hundred years have occurred since 2005 — Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Irma, and Maria combined not only caused \$497 billion in damage, but also thousands of deaths, millions of evacuees, and extreme loss of habitat, the tragedy of which is incalculable in monetary terms. If these tragedies can be traced to climate crisis and coastal development, then those truths can be traced to climate denial and profiteering. Americans have built \$3 trillion worth of property on barrier islands and coastal floodplains, encouraged to do so by federal subsidies, tax breaks, low-interest loans, disaster recovery grants, and government flood insurance programs that shift risk from private investors to public taxpayers. Denial pays. According to the Pulitzer Prize winning author Gilbert M. Gaul in his new book, *The Geography of Risk*, in a post-disaster land-rush, speculators and repeat developers rebuild the riskiest and costliest houses as part of "disaster capitalism." We pay for homes to be rebuilt over and over in flood zones; we pay for infrastructure and amenities.

Long Island provides a case in point: some marshes cannot be restored for lack of clean fill, which is used for our beaches, which generate revenue. Nationally, our coasts support over 123 million people, 55.8 million jobs, and almost half our nation's GDP. The economics of the present will be inundated by the costs of the future, when the possibility of managed retreat becomes the inevitability of unmanaged retreat from our flooded coasts.

Natural infrastructure will not protect us unless we cede land for it. Communities in Canada and even a few in the United States have accepted government buyouts. Suffolk County has taken a baby step environmentally but a big leap politically in restoring rather than auctioning wetlands acquired by foreclosure. Mastic Beach provides a model; however, marsh restoration on Long Island is limited by development.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act prohibits federal expenditures for new development on areas included in the CBRA system, with some exceptions. It currently includes 3.5 million acres of undeveloped land and associated aquatic habitat along the Atlantic Coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed another 277,000 acres in nine Atlantic states, including NY, and will send the proposed additions to Congress for action in 2020. Public support will be critical.

The sea will eventually take back Mar-a-Lago (which translates as Sea-to-Lake) and our Climate-Denier-in-Chief would receive compensation in federal flood insurance for his club. In 2005, Donald Trump received \$17 million for minor hurricane damage and admitted to pocketing the money. He has a financial interest in denial. It is up to us to tell our elected officials that we need to disincentivize rebuilding and direct funds into retreat. Our coasts are resilient — give nature a chance.

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#### MOVEMENTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND STOP THE WILLIAMS PIPELINE GAINING FORCE

Jim Brown

In last month's column ("Welcome, Greta") I wrote of young activist Greta Thunberg's recent arrival in the United States to attend a number of climate actions planned in New York and throughout the country beginning on September 20. I ended the piece by expressing the hope that her message to our hemisphere would resonate and result in success. Indeed it has! Demonstrations in Manhattan and other parts of the state and nation were huge, attended by hundreds of thousands of climate activists young and old. Demonstrations and rallies have continued in the several weeks following the initial New York City Strike for Climate, a march and rally that filled the streets and parks of Lower Manhattan as never before. As I write this, the climate-fighting organization Extinction Rebellion is daily engaged in numerous provocative actions of civil disobedience throughout the world, including large protests in London and New York. Greta Thunberg is not responsible for all of this activity, of course, but it seems that the youth movement she - and others - have created and fostered has grown and synergistically merged with a number of ongoing parallel and intersecting climate action movements. This increased activity directed toward fighting climate change, this strengthening of people's response to the climate emergency we are facing, is a hopeful development indeed.

A local piece of the global movement to halt climate change, the campaign to Stop the Williams Pipeline, has also lately gained momentum. The Williams Pipeline is a planned 23-mile-long pipeline that would bring fracked gas under New York Harbor from Pennsylvania to the Rockaways. This planned project is unnecessary and expensive, and its construction will harm both human life and marine wildlife. Toxins such as PCBs, dioxin, lead, and arsenic would be released during the excavation of the trench that would have to be dug across the harbor. These pollutants would most certainly wash ashore and adversely affect marine life and the shoreline. Construction of the pipeline would create turbulence, vibrations, and noise which would risk altering the migratory patterns of whales, seals, turtles, and birds. Critically, the



Williams Pipeline would also lock us into more than a generation of fossil fuel infrastructure — building it

would be antithetical to the need to fight climate change and convert our energy sources to 100% renewable ones.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) denied the necessary permits for the Pipeline to go forward on May 16. On May 29, Williams reapplied for those permits after tweaking their application. The DEC has until May 2020 to rule again on this latest attempt by the fossil fuel company to gain approval for the ill-advised project. Following the newest Williams application submission, over 25,000 comments were registered by the public. There had been 45,000 comments similarly submitted regarding the previous failed application. 90% of all comments were in opposition to the pipeline. Governor Cuomo has publicly voiced his opposition to the Williams Pipeline, in line with public sentiment and the carefully considered decisions of the DEC.

Gas company National Grid has pushed back against the rising opposition to the Williams Pipeline, declaring that the project is needed in order to guarantee adequate supplies of natural gas to its market on Long Island. National Grid has instituted a moratorium on new gas hookups and even denied services to certain existing customers, prompting New York State Attorney General Letitia James to launch an inquiry into National Grid's threats and fear-mongering. Governor Cuomo has stated that "if they're extorting people, and wrongfully turning off gas service to homes to create political pressure, I'm not negotiating over that. That's extortion. That's a crime." Environmental groups and various governmental agencies have published data demonstrating that National Grid's ardent support of the need for fracked gas supplied by Williams is baseless - no more fuel is now required, and any increased demand in the future could and should be met by renewable sources, such as solar, geothermal, and wind.

Unfortunately, some public officials on Long Island, including both County Executives and six Long Island State Senators, have fallen for the false narrative advanced by Williams and National Grid. The Senators, led by Todd Kaminsky, Environmental Conservation Committee Chair, have asked the DEC to grant "emergency" approval to the pipeline. The position taken by all these officials is a disappointing step backward in the fight against climate change. Agreeing to now construct more expensive fossil fuel infrastructure like the Williams Pipeline is wrong and dangerous. It also directly contradicts the goals of the recent climate legislation passed by the very same Senators that are now supporting Williams and National Grid. The political power of the fossil fuel industry should never be underestimated.

We have responded to National Grid's campaign on misinformation and intimidation. On September 23, during that week's series of climate actions throughout the world, members of the coalition to Stop Williams held a well-attended rally and press event in Mineola. SSAS was well represented at the event, which also included members from Food and Water Watch, Long Island Progressive Coalition, North Shore Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Green Parties of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Sunrise Movement, New York Communities for Change, Sisters of St. Joseph, League of Women Voters, and others. Speakers at the rally urged Governor Cuomo and the DEC to permanently block the proposed Williams Pipeline and shared with the press a copy of our letter to that effect sent to Governor Cuomo and signed by representatives of over 50 Long Island organizations. We hope that the Governor remains firm in his opposition to the Williams Pipeline, despite the actions and statements of fossil fuel companies and some misguided local public officials.

Climate activists have indeed responded to recent events by stepping up the pressure, adding momentum to the movement to Stop the Williams Pipeline - finally and forever! We remember how often LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) projects seemed to resurrect themselves again and again like a bad dream or a relentless vampire. The last one, Port Ambrose, was finally put to rest after years of struggle. The same phenomenon is occurring with the Williams Pipeline. We must remain active and vigilant if we are to prevent its construction, so please stay tuned for upcoming Action Alerts as they arise!

Editor's note: See https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/ governor-cuomo-announces-psc-action-ordering-national-grid-immediately-connect-over-1100, which happened shortly after I received Jim's article. The press release says that the pipeline, had it been immediately approved, would not have existed in time for National Grid to use it to meet its obligation to provide heat this winter.

#### ***** 32ND ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY Bill Belford

Our waterfowl survey dates for the 2019-2020 season are Saturdays, December 7, January 11, February 8 & 29, and March 28. Our group visits the various ponds in southern Nassau County from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park. Volunteers can help out for a few hours or the whole day. Call Bill Belford at 385-1759 for more information and/or to volunteer.

**** Phone: (516) 931-1445 Fax: (516) 931-1467 E-Mail: lenny@konskerandcompany.com

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#### **BOOKS FOR BIRDERS**

R. U. Abyrdar II and Sy Schiff

We're in the midst of the fall migration season, so what better way to learn as we watch these migrating birds! This book sets the tone: Bird Migration: The Incredible

Journeys of North American Birds by Stan Tekiela. To better understand migration in bird behavior, especially in North America, this is a book well worth reading. So, to discover the wonders of birds and their mysterious and exciting migratory journeys, let's



read Sy's testimony to what this book has to offer:

The book is only a short 120 pages. However, the subject is explained in detail in very simple language for an audience with average knowledge. Starting with "The Mystery of Migration," it goes on to cover the what, why, and where of migration. It attempts to answer all the questions one might ask, including ones you may or may not even have been aware of. The author is up on the latest research on most aspects of the subject and displays this information without any jargon. A definite plus.

Some birds migrate in short hops, others in long-distance leaps. Some fly across expanses of water, others move around it. Some fly at night, others fly only during the day. Some species are long-distance migrants, others are short-distance migrants. The what is illustrated and explained, but not the why.

There is much to explain in the secrets of bird navigation and what we've learned by experiments. Also, as he discusses, we still don't fully have an idea of what is going on. Before navigating, refueling must occur. For short-hop migrants, stopovers need to be available. The location of stopovers is discussed and locations shown. Lovely maps help explain some of this.

Birds put on weight before taking off. The amounts are listed and how far one gets on how much fat — more info than you might want to know and all interesting.

A lot of very nontechnical information on a very complex subject is jammed into a few pages. Over half the space is taken up by half- and full-page pictures of birds. The author is an incredible photographer. If the text bores you (it won't), just look at the photos and thoroughly enjoy them. If you have any questions about migration, the answers are all here to the extent that we know anything.

It's a small book, but not a quick read. It's fascinating to find what researchers are doing to try and solve some of the mystery.

So, now that you have enjoyed and been enlightened by Sy's wisdom... READ it ... and ENJOY!!!

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VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982
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NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (844) 428-3826
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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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