OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 6— SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH & APRIL 2020

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: John Turner

TOPIC: Reflections on a Transparent Problem:

Window/Bird Collisions

Hundreds of millions of birds die each year in the United States from colliding into windows. The biggest share of collision deaths comes from collisions with the nation's millions of small buildings, including small residences, not from massacres at skyscrapers. John will discuss the scope of the problem, solutions, and legislative responses by the government.

John is Seatuck Environmental Association's Conservation Policy Advocate and Conservation Chair of Four Harbors Audubon Society, and was a co-founder of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. His long career included serving as Director of Conservation Programs of the Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, as Director of the Division of Environmental Protection of the Town of Brookhaven, and in legislative positions with the New York State Senate and Assembly. 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(s) that he and Sy Schiff reviewed in the previous Skimmer. This meeting's book is Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season by Roger F. Pasquier.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!

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NEXT MEETING AFTER NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 14, 2020

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

SPEAKER: Jay Koolpix

TOPIC: Birds of the South Shore, Part 2

Back by popular demand, photographer Jay Koolpix says, "This is my second bird presentation for the South Shore Audubon Society. This show will present assorted birds, all from the South Shore of Nassau County. I attempt to show them doing behavioral things when possible. I see much beauty in nature, especially birds. I love the challenge of capturing a bird in all its glory. I wait for many hours for that special moment. A photograph can show things that the human eye cannot see in a split second. I hope you enjoy the show."

Born in Spanish Harlem and raised in foster homes, Jay mostly worked two jobs at a time until he retired 6 years ago. He started doing macro photography of insects and flowers 9 years ago, followed about a year later by bird photography. You can find Jay's wonderful photographs at https://www/flickr.com/photos/koolpix_nature/. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Book Discussion: This meeting's book is A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration by Kenn Kaufman.

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.

MICHAEL SPERLING

Betty Borowsky

It is with profound sadness that the Board of the South Shore Audubon Society announces the sudden passing of our treasured President, Michael Sperling, on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Michael was one of the pillars of the Society, serving two terms as President, as Vice President and as the Chair of many committees over the years. But perhaps his greatest contribution was as editor of our newsletter, The Skimmer, for the past 28 years. He prepared 8 issues every year, and never missed one. He not only edited contributed articles, but formatted each page; he even picked up the copies from the printer and labelled and mailed them. There were years when he mailed out over 2,100 copies of the newsletter.

Michael had such a wonderful memory, and was active in the Society for so many years, that he also served as the de facto historian of the organization.

He was deeply committed to environmental preservation. In addition to serving South Shore, he served on the Board of the New York State Audubon Council for 10 years.

It is hard to imagine how we will fill his shoes. And we will miss him terribly.

Michael was amazingly organized and has left SSAS in very good shape. As we transition to a new editor for The Skimmer, this abridged issue covers essential announcements; the next issue will return to full form.

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.

March 1	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
March 8	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
March 15	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
March 22	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
March 29	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and
	Lido Preserve afterwards)
April 5	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
	side of Merrick Rd.)
April 12	Happy Easter and Passover! — No Walk
April 19	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
April 26	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station
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OUR E-LIS	ST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list
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UPDATED SSAS BYLAWS

Brien Weiner

Revisions to NYS Nonprofit Law require that SSAS update its bylaws. Due to an established NYS requirement that either 10% of our members or 100 members, whichever is less (for us that is 100), must cast votes, our bylaws

have been rewritten so that board members will have voting rights to elect officers and directors and to approve changes to bylaws in the future. This is what other Audubon chapters have done. There is no other way for us to remain viable and respond to administrative demands and conservation issues with efficiency and effectiveness.

Further, in order for committee chairs to have voting rights, they must be officers or directors per state law. As a result, we have expanded the allowable number of directors to 21 and eliminated the term limits for directors and the nine-year combined limit for serving as officer/director. Finally, we added a Conflict of Interest Policy to our bylaws.

Members may continue to recommend candidates for officers and directors to the nominating committee that is appointed annually and will be appointed in March. Members are always welcome to offer advice on policy to the board.

According to state law, we are allowed one last vote under existing bylaws for approval of the updated bylaws by a quorum of members at a general meeting after 15 days mailed notice to all members, for which this Skimmer will serve. Our vote will take place at the April 14 general meeting. Copies of our bylaws can be requested at brien. weiner@gmail.com or 516-220-7121.

32ND ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

Bill Belford

Our final waterfowl survey date for the 2019–2020 season is Saturday, 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.

JOIN US IN THE TACKAPAUSHA GARDEN

Marilyn Hametz

As winter is drawing to a close, SSAS will again be in the garden at the Tackapausha Museum in Seaford, enhancing and maintaining the native plantings. Join us at the garden, part of the effort to help build a bird friendly community. If you would like to participate or would like more information, please contact Louise at Lmdecesare128@gmail.com or 917-548-6974.

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JERRY BISHOP ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Betty Borowsky and Betsy Gulotta

Sponsored by SSAS, two \$1000 scholarships are offered to college juniors or seniors or graduate students earning a degree in the areas of biological or environmental science. To receive an application, contact Professor Gulotta at Betsy.Gulotta@ncc.edu. Applications are due by April 30, 2020.

SAVE THESE DATES -- DETAILS NEXT MONTH

Saturday, May 2: Annual Morning in Central Park. As usual, Chris Cooper (who was featured in HBO's documentary, "Birders: The Central Park Effect," and started birding with SSAS as a child) has agreed to lead us through the Ramble during peak warbler season. Many of us will meet in Penn Station for an 8:30 a.m. subway trip.

Tuesday, June 9: Annual Dinner. Join us at Pompei in West Hempstead for raffles, awards, etc.

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ety, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

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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.

HEMPSTEAD LAKE STATE PARK UPDATE

Brien Weiner

The February 2020 Skimmer included an abridged version of SSAS comments submitted to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) on their proposed Hempstead Lake State Park (HLSP) Project, which will remove woodlands and wetlands and put birds at risk. Similar comments were submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

GOSR dismissed our comments; the DEC is still considering them. Our comments to the DEC included testimony from engineering, forestry, and bird experts about the value of trees and from toxicologists and health experts on the potential for watershed contamination and airborne toxins. Sediment testing for dioxin, a suspected carcinogen, indicated unsafe levels at one site and testing at other sites as required by the DEC was not done. Tests for volatile organic compounds and pesticides were corrupted in the lab and not redone. Lead and heavy metals were found at unsafe levels with inadequate mitigation plans.

We continue to investigate, offer to negotiate, and prepare for court action. We are also attending meetings with Mill River residents who may file their own lawsuit because the Living with the Bay Project, of which the HLSP project is a part, would harden the west side of the river and thereby flood the east side residents during storm surge events.



BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

From eBird: "If you ever watch birds in New York, you can be a part of the Breeding Bird Atlas! Everyone is encouraged to participate from 2020-2024. Beginner and advanced birders alike can enhance their birding experience by observing bird behaviors. And you can be involved as little or as much as you want. Whenever you go birding -- be it in your backyard, at your summer camp, or in your favorite park -- every sighting counts! A key change from previous atlases will be the use of eBird for data collection. eBird offers real-time data entry and outputs, so you'll be able to follow along with results throughout the breeding season and across the enitre project period. See our Tutorials page to get started with eBird atlasing!" For more information, see https://ebird.org/atlasny/about

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act faces another threat from the federal government. In January, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposed rule to cement their policy that eliminates the MBTA's prohibition on the killing of migratory birds from industrial activities. Audubon continues to defend the MBTA through legal action and through support of the Migratory Bird Protection Act, introduced by bipartisan co-sponsors to reinforce the MBTA.

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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2019–2020 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Brien Weiner, President & Conservation Co-Chair 220-7121
Jim Brown, VP & Conservation Co-Chair608-1446
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer & Field Trips536-4808
Alene Scoblete, Recording Secretary596-3239
Guy Jacob, Director (6/22)
Richard Kopsco, Dir. (6/22) & Brookside Preserve825-6792
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Marilyn Hametz, Publicity799-7189
Wendy Murbach, Membership546-6303
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming426-9012

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.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.

☐ Donations to SSAS are always welcome! \$
Yes, I'd like to join: 🗖 SSAS only 🗖 National Audubon too
NAME:
ADDRESS:
(Zip+4)
PHONE NO.:
E-MAIL:
Chanter Code R15 (South Shore Auduhon Society)