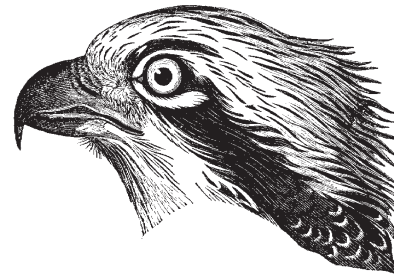


The Osprey's

Platform

North Shore Audubon Society
Serving Northern Nassau County



VOL. 67 Issue # 1
Sept.- Oct. 2016

Established 1952

Evening Programs

Manhasset Public Library
30 Onderdonk Ave. at Northern Blvd. 7pm
Open to the public and free of charge

Handicap accessible

<http://manhassetlibrary.org>

Membership meetings are the

4th Tuesday of the month, unless noted

Join us on the friendly walks,
Saturdays

Sept. - Dec. and March - May

Wednesdays year round.



31st Annual International Coastal Cleanup
(In conjunction with the American Littoral Society)

Followed by Live Animal Presentation by
Volunteers for Wildlife

Garvies Point Museum and Preserve
50 Barry Drive, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Sat September 24th, 2016 10 - 12 pm

Join thousands of volunteers from all over the world during the Cleanup. All are welcome to help clean up our shoreline along Hempstead Harbor. Every year we collect hundreds of pounds of debris. Light refreshments & complimentary live animal show for our volunteers. Please RSVP



November 22

Chimney Swifts and People:
Past, Present and Future
John Connors

An overview of chimney swifts from the perspective of a young man who as a child, birded with the sneaker wearing lady members of the Lyman Langdon Audubon Society. John Conner now lives in North Carolina where he works to create Chimney Swift habitats. These fascinating birds require human built structures for breeding.

Help NSAS Cut Costs

One of our biggest expenses is printing and mailing the newsletter. You can opt to have the newsletter emailed to you as a pdf. Save paper and trees - PLUS you get the newsletter as soon as it is ready, instead of waiting for the Post Office to get around to delivering bulk mail. We can also send you updates, cancellations and changes. Please send an email to with your name and address to; nsaudubonsociety@gmail.com



October 25

Eagles on Long Island
Michael S. Scheibel

Mike is the Natural Resources Manager of the 2,039 acre Mashomack Preserve on Shelter Island. Part of Mike's duties include protection and observation of a pair of Bald Eagles that have nested there. Is this a trend due to improved environmental conditions, overcrowding in more traditional nesting sites, or other reasons?

Mike was hired by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 1994 as Project Manager to direct conservation planning for the privately acquired Robins Island. In 1996, he accepted his present position. Prior to working for TNC, Mike was a Senior Wildlife Biologist for the New York State DEC in Stony Brook. During two decades of working for the Bureau of Wildlife he initiated a study of the local endangered species program. This included osprey, bald eagles, piping plover and tiger salamander.



Thank You Whole Foods for generously supplying the refreshments at our general meetings. Whole Foods is located at Northern Blvd. and Port Washington Blvd.





From the President Peggy Maslow

I pointed out a chimney swift last spring, flying over Muttontown Preserve and other birders became excited. Chimney swifts are sighted occasionally during migration in our area but not so frequently during breeding season. Last year I also saw a few flying over the 9 hole executive golf course at Hempstead Harbor early in the morning by hole one. Then the second week in August this year I spotted 3 flying on hole 9 at the same golf course. I looked everywhere for a place they could breed but was unsuccessful. Chimney swifts depend on chimneys or a similar structure.

On November 22, a speaker on chimney swifts, John Connors, will explain everything about chimney swifts at our regular meeting at Manhasset Library. I have seen his presentation in North Carolina and I urge you not to miss it.

Briefly, chimney swifts must have chimneys to exist. They are just about totally dependent on human constructions. In some areas, such as North Carolina, residents remove their chimney coverings in spring so the birds can breed. During Fall migration the birds gather in huge flocks in factory or large building chimneys. There are YouTube videos of the amazing phenomenon of uncountable numbers of chimney swifts descending into a large chimney at dusk.

John Connors, the November 22 speaker, is actually responsible for the construction of a large chimney at the Prairie Ridge Preserve in Raleigh, North Carolina. Chimneys in downtown Raleigh, which the swifts now use, may be demolished soon. He is hoping the swifts will discover his new chimney in time to give them a place to assemble.

Chimney swifts are easily recognizable in the air because their wings do not flap together as do other birds. They have feet and legs that cannot perch but can cling to the inside of chimneys. Attend our November program to learn more about these fascinating birds that now need human help.

Protecting Long Island Sound

On August 4, 2016, Audubon New York proudly stood in support of New York State Governor, Andrew M. Cuomo, as he announced the state's opposition to EPA's proposed Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP), which would establish new permanent open water disposal sites in eastern Long Island Sound. In a letter signed by more than 30 federal, state and local elected officials, Governor Cuomo provided notice to President Obama and EPA officials that the state will take necessary steps to prevent the EPA from issuing a rule allowing dredged materials from Connecticut to be dumped in the eastern region of the Long Island Sound. The actions taken by the State will help safeguard Long Island's ecologically significant waterways and protect the billions of dollars that have been invested over the last decade in the restoration and cleanup of the Sound.

The Long Island Sound borders New York and Connecticut, and is considered one of the richest veins of biodiversity in the world. More than two dozen Important Bird Areas (IBAs) have been designated within the Long Island Sound ecosystem, which help support species like the federally threatened Piping Plover, federally endangered Roseate Tern, American Oystercatcher, and the rare Saltmarsh Sparrow. Working collaboratively with Audubon Connecticut and other partners, Audubon New York has been a leading voice in the protection and future health of Long Island's coastal waters and IBAs. As Chair of the Policy Committee of the Long Island Sound Citizens Advisory Committee, Audubon New York has effectively advocated for the passage of the Long Island Restoration and Stewardship Act and funding for the Long Island Sound Study program.

Audubon New York thanks Governor Cuomo for his leadership and will work with our partners to ensure that EPA reverses its proposed DMMP.



FALL 2016 BIRD WALK SCHEDULE

Walks are for beginners and experienced birders alike. Weather permitting, walks start at 9:30AM unless indicated otherwise ***. If in doubt, please call the trip leader. Please note: all phone numbers are area code 516 unless noted. In most cases, the contacts are also leaders for the respective walks. Go to our website at www.northshoreaudubon.org for directions.

We encourage carpooling, where possible. Please note there is a \$10 per car fee at Sands Pt. Call leader for parking ideas.

Schedule note: *** indicates 8 am official start time *indicates new parking location

September

Sat.	9/3	Garvies Point Preserve	718-343-1391 Lenore
Wed.	9/7	Hempstead Lake State Park	987-8103 Steve
Sat.	9/10	Garvies	628-1315 Lindy
Wed.	9/14	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station	546-6303 Wendy
Sat.	9/17	Alley Pond Park	718-343-1391 Lenore
Wed.	9/21	Sands Point Preserve PARK FEE	883-2130 Peggy
Sat.	9/24 8am***	Deserversky Center NYIT campus	404-1984 Elizabeth
Wed.	9/28	Garvies	628-1315 Lindy

October

Sat.	10/1 8am***	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station	Stacy & Kurt Meyerheinrich
Wed.	10/5	Kissena Park	509-1094 Rich
Sat.	10/8	Alley Pond Environmental Center	718-224-8432 Trudy
Wed.	10/12	Caumsett State Park	509-1094 Rich
Sat.	10/15 8am***	Hoffman Center	628-9022 Barbara
Wed.	10/19	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station	509-1094 Rich
Sat.	10/22	Oceanside Preserve	785-3375 Ralph
Wed.	10/26	Planting Fields Arboretum	621-6678 Joyce
Sat.	10/29	Jamaica Bay NWR	718-343-1391 Lenore

November

Wed.	11/2	*Massapequa Pres. WALKER ST. ENTRANCE	See Note 621-6678 Joyce
Sat.	11/5	Point Lookout (SE corner of pk lot) & Lido Beach Preserve	987-8103 Steve
Wed.	11/9	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station	785-3375 Ralph
Sat.	11/12 8am***	Nassau Fine Arts Museum	883-2130 Peggy
Wed.	11/16	Stehli Beach, West End of Bayville	628-1315 Lindy
Sat.	11/19	North Shore Duck Walk meet at Macy's in Manhasset	767-3454 Jennifer
Wed.	11/23	No walk Thanksgiving Eve! Happy Thanksgiving!	
Sat.	12/17	North Shore Christmas Bird Count	details to follow

***Massapequa Preserve WALKER ST. ENTRANCE:** Southern State parkway to Linden St (Exit 31). Turn left onto Linden St, turn right onto Lake Shore Drive, turn right onto Walker St. A sign for the preserve on the right says Mansfield Park. Parking lot is a big dirt field with many ruts. Drive slowly.

If you take Bethpage Parkway to the end it looks like you cannot exit to the local streets at SSP Exit 31, so this would not be recommended.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Bayles Garden Center

88 S. Bayles Ave., Port Washington is offering a special discount to NSAS members.

20% off on seed and feeders, excluding sale items. Bring in your National Audubon membership card, or this NSAS newsletter.

OFFICERS - 2016-2018

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Jill Vomacka, Vice President 671-9823
Belinda Nielsen, Secretary 628-1315
Micheal Henahan, Treasurer 627-7018

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Field Trips - Barbara Garriel 628-9022
Leaderless Walks-Wendy Murbach 546-6303
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Special Projects - Jill Vomacka

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vze2dxmi1@verizon.net
Newsletter

This newsletter is printed five times a year. Please submit articles for the newsletter to: Jennifer Wilson-Pines, 7 Cottonwood Road Port Washington, NY 11050 email preferred jwpines@gmail.com
Problems with your National Audubon membership? Call 1-800-274-4201
GarviesWebsite www.garviespointmuseum.com
TR Sanctuary ny.audubon.org/trsac.htm
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Volunteers for Wildlife 516-674-0982
Banded Pigeons-Nassau Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Joan Schroeder 631-738-1061
Raccoons NC Dept of Health M-F, 9-5, 516-227-9663.Sat-Sun, eves 516-742-6154
You can reach us at www.northshoreaudubon.org; Voicemail at 516-671-5725 and North Shore Audubon on Facebook



Is Your Yard a Bird-Friendly Habitat?

In addition to using native plants and removing invasive plants, here are some ways to make your property more bird-friendly. Note: The list is not ordered by importance.

1. Wildlife water feature - Birds and other wildlife need a ready source of fresh water to survive, so small ponds, bird baths, water drips, etc. improve your habitat. These water sources need to be kept clean and fresh, especially bird baths. Also locate bird baths out of reach of predators such as cats.

2. Cats indoors at all times or in outdoor enclosure - Outdoor cats kill millions of birds each year and are a special threat to fledglings and ground-nesting birds. Fledglings (birds who have just left the nest) spend some time on the ground unable to fly and are very vulnerable to cat predation.

3. Beneficial insect nesting habitat - Rock piles, bundles of stems and branches, and mason bee boxes all help insects thrive on your property contributing to the natural web of life and helping provide birds the vital food they need.

4. Snags or nurse logs - A snag is part of a dead or dying tree left standing and a nurse log is a fallen tree left lying on the ground. A snag can provide nesting habitat and insects for birds. A nurse log can provide a place for new plants to germinate and insects for birds. CAUTION: Only leave snags where they won't present safety hazards when they eventually fall.

5. Pollinator Garden - Hummingbirds, native bees and wasps, and other native pollinators are threatened by loss of habitat and pesticides. You can help them by adding native plants that bloom at different times during the growing season to give them the nectar and pollen they need as food throughout the growing season.

6. Prevention of bird window collisions - According to the American Bird Conservancy, "Millions of birds die every year flying into windows because they can't tell reflections from trees, plants and sky. Most of those windows are on houses." They have recommendations to make windows more visible on their website. In addition, you should keep bird feeders either within 3 feet of windows (too close to be fatal) or more than 20 feet away. Also use fiberglass screens on windows where possible.

7. Using leaves as mulch and fertilizer - Leaves, when they fall from your trees and other plants, are nature's

way of fertilizing and mulching the vegetation in your yard. Mature habitats can be self sustaining if leaves are left where they fall. Worms and many insect larvae such as fire flies rely on leaf litter for their habitat and food and, in turn, feed the birds. If you don't have enough mature trees to provide the leaves, you may be able to obtain a load of leaves for free during city leaf collection. If the leaves are too coarse, just run a mulching mower over them a few times to grind them up.

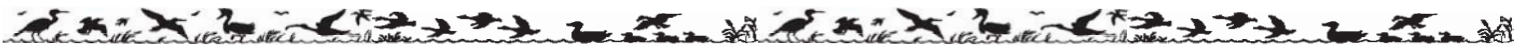
8. Reduction of lawn areas - Lawns with the typical nonnative grasses such as fescue can require fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and frequent mowing, all of which are detrimental to wildlife and the environment. Grass lawns also produce few insects for birds. Creating natural areas with native plants and leaf mulch is a much better and lower maintenance alternative.

9. Minimal use of nonorganic fertilizer - Healthy garden soil with leaf mulch needs little or no fertilizing. But if you have to use fertilizers, organic fertilizers are much preferable. In contrast to non-organics, they release nutrients slowly preventing runoff of chemicals that damage streams and lakes, and they build the soil and nourish micro-organisms that are vital to soil health.

10. Reduction or elimination of pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides - Pesticides are indiscriminate in that they kill both their intended target along with beneficial organisms and insects, and they are dangerous to humans and wildlife. Very limited use of herbicides may be necessary to totally eliminate the harder to control invasive plants. But persistent and widespread use is not recommended since it can be harmful to humans and wildlife and collect in runoff to streams. In spite of claims by manufacturers, there is no completely safe herbicide. Most rodenticides kill rodents by causing them to bleed to death, but that death can be slow and painful. Birds of prey such as hawks and owls will catch poisoned rodents while they are still moving around and then can suffer the same fate of slowly bleeding to death.

11. Replacing gas-powered equipment with electric. Gas powered lawn mowers, weed eaters, and leaf blowers contribute to air pollution and cause noise pollution. Battery-powered or corded electric alternatives are better for the environment. As you reduce lawn area and use leaves as mulch, the need for lawn mowers and weed eaters will be reduced and in some cases completely eliminated.





Odds N' Ends

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary

134 Cove Rd., Oyster Bay (516) 922-3200
<http://ny.audubon.org/TRSanctuary>

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary was founded in 1923. Today, through high-quality programs and a professional staff, TR provides natural science education to children and adults on Long Island and beyond. Most programs are family friendly. **Call for fees and to reserve programs.**

Garvies Point Museum & Preserve

50 Barry Drive, Glen Cove 571-8010
Closed Sunday & Mondays

Movies, walks and gallery talks included with admission to the Museum. \$3 adults, \$2 children 5-12
www.garviespointmuseum.com

Nature Films Tues thru Sat. check website for schedule

Workshops Pre-registration and fee required

Jewelry Workshop: Wednesdays 10 am - 1 pm

Enameling Workshop: Fridays 10 am - 1 pm

Nassau Mineral Club holds weekly Saturday work sessions from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, visitors welcome

FRIENDS OF GARVIES POINT MUSEUM & PRESERVE Membership Application

Some benefits of membership-

Free admission to Garvies Point Museum & Preserve
Discount in the gift shop, Notices of special events and programs, Invitations to MEMBERS ONLY events and programs.

Checks for your tax-deductible donation should be made payable to:

Friends of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve
mail to:

Friends of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve
50 Barry Drive

Glen Cove, NY 11542

I would like to join the Friends of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve at the level indicated:

\$25 individual \$35 family

\$20 senior/student \$100 corporation

Name _____

email (optional) _____

Address _____

Telephone (optional) _____

Special Interests (optional)



Garvies Point Museum and Preserve Special Events

General Admission \$3/adults; \$2/children 5-12

September 17th

PINECONE ANIMAL CRAFT

11 am – 3 pm, ongoing

General Admission +\$5.00 per participant

September 24th

COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY

10 am – 12 pm

All are welcome to help clean up our shoreline along Hempstead Harbor. Every year we collect hundreds of pounds of debris. Light refreshments & complimentary live animal show for our volunteers. Please RSVP

October 15th

SIGNS OF AUTUMN WALK

1 pm, Included with Museum General Admission

October 29th

HALLOWEEN CRAFT

11 am – 3 pm

General Admission+ \$5.00 per participant

Saturday & Sunday, November 19 & 20

NATIVE AMERICAN FEAST

10 am – 4 pm

Hands-on activities during the weekend will be ongoing, they include pottery-making using ancient methods, primitive fire-building and on-site open fire cooking with samples (our famous popcorn soup!). Authentic Native American food displays with sampling; artifacts and tool technology including drilling in stone, face painting with natural pigments, and spear throwing using an atlatl. Films about Native American culture will be shown throughout. Activities are appropriate for all ages and are held both indoors and outdoors. Rain or shine \$5.00 per person





FIELD NOTES

Abbreviations for common locations: **CC**= Captin's Cove, **CIB**=Centre Island Beach, **CITP**=Centre Island Town Park, **DP**=Dosoris Pond, **FFS** Flora & Fauna Survey **FPM**=Fox Point Marsh, **GPP**=Garvies Point Preserve, **HC**=Hoffman Center, **HH**=Hempstead Harbor, **LB**= Lattingtown Beach, **MNC**=Mill Neck Creek, **MPB**=Morgan's Park Beach, **MP**= Muttontown Preserve, **MPP**=Massapequa Park Preserve, **PB**=Pryible Beach, **PFA**=Planting Fields Arboretum, **PRCC**=Piping Rock Country Club, **RB**=Ransom Beach, **SB**=Stehli Beach, **SJM**=St Josphapts Monestary, **SPP**=Sands Point Preserve, **SSP**=Shu Swamp Preserve, **WP**=Welwyn Preserve, **FOS**= first of season, + = many, F =female, M=male, A=adult, imm.=immature, J=juvenile

Date	Birds	Location	Observer
Bayville			
7/11	Brown Thrasher	Centre Island Beach	Jim Madden
7/16	N Flicker	Bayville yard	Jim Madden
7/20	Am Goldfinches	Bayville yard	Jim Madden
7/21	Spotted Sandpiper, Dunlin, 20+ peeps	Stehli Beach	Jim Madden
7/27	Baltimore Oriole	Bayville yard	Lindy Nielsen
8/11	Male R-t. Hummingbird	Bayville yard	Lindy Nielsen
Glen Cove			
7/6	Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Spotted Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Great Black-Backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-Bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, Black-Capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Carolina and House Wren, Wood Thrush (h), Am. Robin, Starling, Gray Catbird, N. Mockingbird, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, N. Cardinal, Grackle, Orchard Oriole, Am. Goldfinch, House Sparrow	Garvies Point Museum & Preserve	NSAS walk
7/28	Peregrine Falcon	Garvies Pt dog park	Shelly Ventresca
Manhasset			
7/6	42 Bobwhites (stocked), Wood Pewee (h), 3Warbling Vireos (h), Wood Thrushes (h), Indigo Bunting (h)	Greentree Estate	R.Kelly, E.Nardone, J.Turner
Locust Valley			
7/9	Indigo Bunting, 6 Orchard Orioles	Piping Rock Club, Matinecock	Barbara Conolly
Mill Neck			
7/13	Cowbird, 6 House Finches, 8 Goldfinches	Mill Neck yard	Barbara Conolly
7/22	25 plus Great and Snowy Egrets	The Mud Hole/West Shore Road	Lindy Nielsen
8/3	40 species; 3 Wood Ducks, 2 Great Egrets, 2 Green Herons, 3 Solitary Sandpipers, Empidonax Flycatcher sp.	Shu Swamp	NSAS walk
Muttontown			
6/22	Veery (h), 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Scarlet Tanagers	Chelsea Center	NSAS walk
Oyster Bay			
7/27	Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Indigo Bunting, Orchard Orioles, Baltimore Orioles	Planting Fields Arboretum	R.Kelly,A.Lindberg,B.Garriel,J.Parry,K&S.Meyerheinrich
8/15	Bobolink, Orchard Oriole	Planting Fields Arboretum	R.Kelly,A.Lindberg,R.Ryder
Port Washington/ Sands Point			
7/23	Piping Plover fledgling	Prospect Point, Sands Point	Peggy Maslow
7/28	Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Am Goldfinch	Port Washington yard	Donald Hecht
June-August Com Terns small colony (10+ adults) nesting on work raft off Town Dock. Fledged young Jennifer Wilson-Pines			
Roslyn			
7/20	Canada Geese, Green Heron, Red-Tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Red-Bellied Woodpecker (h), N. Flicker, E Phoebe, Blue Jay, Black-Capped Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Am. Robin, Starling, Gray Catbird, N. Mockingbird, E Towhee, Chipping and Song Sparrow, N. Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch	William Cullen Bryant Preserve	NSAS walk

SIGHTINGS OUTSIDE NSAS TERRITORY

South Shore

6/29	Green Heron, 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Glossy Ibis, Monk Parakeets, Norman Levy Park		NSAS walk
6/29	3 Black Scoters, Whimbrel, E. Meadowlark	Jones Beach	R.Kelly,L.Nielsen,C.Slotnick,N.Togn-an,K&S.Meyerheinrich
7/2	Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Willet, Com Terns	Oceanside	John Ciesla



Date	Birds	Location	Observer
7/13	Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Laughing Gull, Least Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Skimmer, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron (adult and immature), Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Am Oystercatcher, Killdeer, Willet (A+ imm), Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Osprey (and immature on nest), Mourning Dove, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Fish Crow, Marsh Wren, N Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Euro Starling, House Sparrow, House Finch, Song Sparrow, Salt Marsh Sparrow	Oceanside	NSAS walk
7/27	Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, E Pewee, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, House Sparrow, N Cardinal, Song Sparrow	Hempstead Lake SP	NSAS walk

Suffolk County

7/20	34 species; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, 2 E Bluebird, 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrow, 2 Blue Grosbeaks, 4 E Meadowlarks	Preston Ponds, Calverton	Barbara Garriel, Joan Parry, Stacy&Kurt Meyerheinrich
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Special Thanks to Rich Kelly, Lindy Nielsen, and Barbara Garriel for taking on the Field Notes while Ralph Cioffi recovers. Please email sightings to Rich Kelly at vze2dxmi1@verizon.net

New Big Year Records by Noah Strycker

When Sandy Komito saw 748 species in 1998, many thought his North American birding record would last forever. His number stood for 15 years—until Neil Hayward managed to log 749 species during his frenzied run. Since then, birders have wondered when someone might go for the big 750.

It happened this month—twice! On July 16, John Weigel spotted a Buller's Shearwater on a boat trip from Half Moon Bay, California, marking his 750th sighting of 2016. Then, on July 18, Olaf Danielson encountered some Red-faced Cormorants while birding on Saint Paul Island, Alaska, notching his own Big Year triumph. It's hard to tell which is more remarkable: that the North American Big Year record was smashed in less than seven months, or that two separate birders hit the mark within two days of each other.

For Weigel, an American ex-pat now living in Australia, this is just another drop in the birding bucket. He's completed two previous Big Years Down Under, and his Australian record of 770 species still holds. Turning his attention to North America seemed like the natural thing to do. "Apart from the obvious but hopefully avoidable risks of financial ruin and family dissolution, why not?" he wrote on his blog before setting out this past January.

Danielson is also a Big Year veteran, having set his own special record: In 2013, he saw 594 species of North American birds au naturel (in other words, the birds were wearing more than he was). He's been tear-

ing up the race this year (clothed), and was in the lead until Weigel pushed ahead in July. He's dedicating his Big Year to his grandmother, Lucille.

The two competitors are neck and neck right now, and it will be interesting to see how they fare for the remaining five months. On reaching 750 in California, Weigel coyly commented, "I'll keep my long-term goals to myself for the time being, but all can be assured that I'm not planning on going soft any time soon."

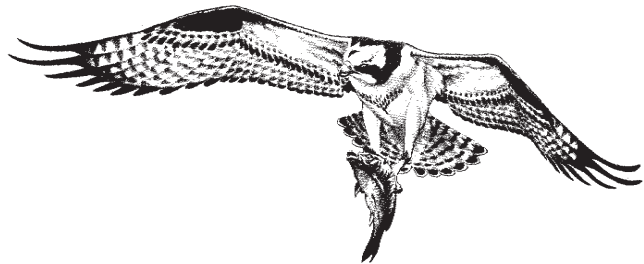
Both Weigel and Danielson have benefited from a few recent splits in species taxonomy. This year, for instance, the Western Scrub-Jay was divided into the California and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, adding on an extra tick. The strong El Nino of 2016 also pushed a few rare birds into North American territory that normally wouldn't occur here; though all of Weigel's species in the past month have been regulars. Now the question looms: Could these guys reach 775 by December?

In the grandest sense, the Big Year is more than just a game. Though few mortals will ever tackle the endeavor, most of us can appreciate the decision to follow a passion to its outer limits. Dedicating a whole year to birds is an exhausting, exhilarating, occasionally demoralizing, and addictive pursuit, and anyone crazy enough to go the distance is in for a wild ride. A big hat tip to Weigel and Danielson for chasing their dreams—and best of luck to both of them for the rest of 2016 and beyond.

From Audubon.org



NORTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 763 Port Washington, NY 11050



A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Mission Statement - *To promote, protect and preserve the environment and the birds that inhabit it through education, advocacy and leadership.*

www.northshoreaudubon.org

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Please check the date on your mailing label. This may be your last issue. We'd hate to see you go the way of the Carolina Parakeet.

Join the North Shore Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application / Renewal

Gift Membership

\$20 One year membership Renewal?

\$35 Two year membership Renewal?

Membership in NSAS includes 5 issues per year of this newsletter, free scheduled field trips, programs and lectures.

\$_____ Additional contribution Interested in Volunteering?

The North Shore Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Please make checks payable to North Shore Audubon Society

PO Box 763, Port Washington, NY 11050

National Audubon renewals please use magazine insert forms.

**September- October
2016**

Inside

President's Message

Protecting LI Sound

Fall Walks

Is Your Yard Bird Friendly?

Odds n' Ends

Field Notes

Big Year Records

**North Shore
Audubon Society**



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