# The Osprey's Platform

North Shore Audubon Society Serving Northern Nassau County



Established1952

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

September - December and March - May Wednesdays - year round.

Saturday, September 23
International Beach Clean up &
Fall Family Fun Day at
Garvies Point Musuem and Preserve
Clean up from 10am – 12pm

Live animal program from 12:30- 1:30 Volunteers must register by Sept. 16. 571-8010 All are welcome to help clean up our shoreline. Every year we collect hundreds of pounds of debris. Light refreshments & complimentary live animal presentation for our volunteers.

## November 28 Raptors and how to photograph them Scott Joshua Dere

Scott will show how to photogrpah raptors and other birds in flight so anyone can do it well, including locations and facts about identifying birds in flight from a distance. Scott will share some insight on behaviors to predict actions and backdrops to obtain the best possible images.

Scott Joshua Dere has been using a camera since he was 5 years old. He received a BFA in Fine Arts of Photography from School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. He has a Master of Photography from the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). Scott currently has his own professional studio in NY and is the president of the Professional Photographers of Greater New York.

#### 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. We can also send you updates, cancellations and changes. Please send an email with your name and address to: nsaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

## October 24 Bird Banding Basics Robert Paxton

Bird Banding is the attachment of a small, individually numbered metal or plastic tag to the leg of a bird to enable individual identification.

Robert Paxton says "Almost everything we know about bird behavior comes from banding; where they go, how long they live, whether they are monogamous or polygamous, how many you have at your feeder, where they winter, where they breed. You think you have one at your feeder and then you start banding and you have ten." Robert Paxton was a master bird bander for 50 years. He is also a professor emeritus of history at Columbia University.

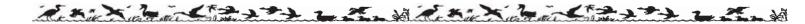
#### Sat & Sun November 18 & 19 • 10am – 4pm Garvies Point Museum and Preserve Native American Feast

The Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, and 35 years of the Feast. Celebration Special Activity: Try your hand at making a 12 foot long dugout canoe! Demonstrations & hands-on activities on-going, including pottery-making, authentic Native American food displays with sampling, Native American tools & artifacts, natural face painting, using an atlatl, plus primitive firebuilding & on-site cooking, films on Native American culture. Held rain or shine, indoors & outside, bring a bag lunch and spend the day! \$5.00/child 5-12, \$8.00/ adult: includes all activities & museum admission.



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

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## From the President: Peggy Maslow Bird-Friendly Gardens or Habitats

A new bird-friendly garden has been dedicated at Garvies Point Museum and Preserve this summer. Jill Vomacka, using funds from a foundation she created to honor her parents, is the driving force behind its creation. You can view an article about the garden dedication published from the LI Herald of Glen Cove at: http://www.liherald.com/glencove/stories/at-garvies-abird-friendly-backyard-garden-is-born,94559. The author of the article, George Wallace, writes, "Five years in the making, the garden features plants chosen from a list of over 100 shrubs, herbaceous perennials, ferns, vines, grasses and sedges suggested by experts for such a project. The list ranges from common wild plants — like milkweed, mullein, plantain and joe-pye weed — to those which offer more splashes of color and style to the garden including coneflowers, phlox, loosestrife and even sunflowers." The experts mentioned are Veronica Natalie, director of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve and Kathryne Natalie, President of Friends of Garvies Museum and Preserve who Jill Vomacka consulted on the choice of native plants. A printed list of the native plants used is available.

For Jill Vomacka the garden represents a peaceful place to enjoy nature and a way to honor her parents. She spoke at length about both her parents and their wonderful influence on her. According to both Veronica and Kathryne Natale, the garden also serves the function of demonstrating to people with yards what they can plant themselves to help birds and butterflies to thrive. "Acre by acre, mile by mile, local residents have a golden opportunity to make their yards birdfriendly habitats for thrush, chickadee, sparrows, hummingbirds and more, says the North Shore Audubon Society," writes George Wallace. "And it's as simple as providing food, water and shelter — the three things all animals need to sustain themselves and raise their young — in one's own small piece of suburban paradise." He writes it better than I could.

When you visit the garden you can sit on the bench dedicated to Helen McLure facing the stunning water feature. The area, once scrubby grass and invasive vines and plants like Japanese knotweed, has been totally transformed.

Another new native plant garden now exists in

Manorhaven Village on the Port Washington Peninsula at Manorhaven Preserve. Cornell Extension Master gardeners in coordination with Manorhaven Village and Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington and with a grant from Dejana Foundation planted the garden. To see more demonstration native plant gardens go to the bird garden at Planting Fields Arboretum, Science Museum of Long Island and Bailey Arboretum and butterfly garden at TONH Clark Gardens. Please contact me at nsaudubonsociety@gmail.com if you need help with choosing plants or want to be certified as having a bird-friendly habitat. Volunteers are needed at Bailey Arboretum at 1 pm, September 25, Monday, to reconfigure the native plant garden. Please contact me if you plan to attend.

Bird Watching at Science Museum of Long Island Peggy Maslow

The dredging of Leeds Pond in Plandome is scheduled at some point in the future. Jeff Gross, who lives across from Leeds Pond, heard this and became concerned about when this would happen. In the spring and early summer the osprey young learn to fish there. In the autumn and winter waterfowl visit. Jeff knows this because he is always looking at the birds and taking photos. He has a full time job, four children and volunteers as a coach, but he somehow spends hours watching birds. For example, he saw a bald eagle that lives nearby predate the osprey young. Then he saw the osprey couple attempt a new nest on an electric pole which then caught fire and the birds' nest was removed.

I met Jeff as he came to watch and take photos of the hummingbirds that visit the flowers at the Science Museum of Long Island native plant garden that NSAS planted with a grant from AudubonNY and volunteers maintain. He has seen many species at this location such as kestrel, peregrine falcons, several species of owls, and many passerines. The kestrel caught one of those special lizards only found there. While talking to him he agreed to participate in the Christmas Bird Count and to have his yard certified as a bird-friendly habitat. He also listed several warblers that have visited his yard in the past.

Jeff happens to be a lapsed NSAS member. So if you see a very tall man with a large camera lens around the Science Museum of Long Island say hello since it's probably Jeff.



#### FALL WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY 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 early official start time \*indicates new parking location.

#### September

Sat.	9/2	Garvies Point Preserve 718-343-1391 Lenore
Wed.	9/6	8am *** Hempstead Lake State Park 987-8103 Steve
Sat.	9/9	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station 767-3454 Jennifer
Wed.	9/13	Garvies Point Preserve 628-1315 Lindy
Sat.	9/16	Alley Pond Park 718-343-1391 Lenore
Wed.	9/20	Sands Point Preserve 883-2130 Peggy
Sat.	9/23	8am***Deserversky Center NYIT campus 404-1984 Elizabeth
Wed.		St. Josaphat's 628-9022 Barbara
Sat.		8am*** Humes Estate 628-9022 Barbara (People may
		later and catch up with the group. Please let leader know
	in adv	
		•

#### Octobor

OCTOD	er		
Wed.	10/4	8am *** Hempstead Lake State Park 987-8103 Steve	
Sat.	10/7	Garvies 628-1315 Lindy	
Wed.	10/11	Caumsett State Park 628-1315 Lindy	
Sat.		8am***Hoffman Center 628-9022 Barbara	
Wed.	10/18	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station 785-3375 Ralph	
Sat.		Planting Fields Arboretum 621-6678 Joyce	
Wed.	10/25	Sands Point 423-0947 Stephane	
Sat.		8 a.m.***John F. Kennedy Preserve at Tobay beach	
	883-2130 Peggy Participants may consider going to JBCGS		
	for a leaderless walk after the bird banding demonstration and		
	walk at JFK.**FREE parking permit required: http://oysterbaytown.		
	com/wpcontent/uploads/2015/03/JFKPermitApplication.pdf		

#### N. a. . a mada a m

November		
Wed.	11/1	Oceanside Preserve 785-3375 Ralph
Sat.	11/4	8am *** Point Lookout (SE corner of parking lot )
	& Lido	Beach Preserve 987-8103 Steve
Wed.	11/8	Jones Beach Coast Guard Station 785-3375 Ralph
Sat.	11/11	8am***Nassau Fine Arts Museum 883-2130 Peggy
Wed.	11/15	Stehli Beach, West End of Bayville 628-1315 Lindy
Sat.	11/18	North Shore Duck Walk meet at Macy's in Manhasset
	767-3	454 Jennifer
Wed.	11/22	Thanksgiving Eve! Happy Thanksgiving!
Wed.	11/29	Sunken Meadow 433-5590 Sharon Brody
		·
Sat.	12/16	North Shore Christmas Bird Count details to follow

#### Newsletter changes

We have changing to a quarterly newsletter. We have redesigned the website and have both a Facebook page and a group for more up to the minute information. www.northshoreaudbon.org

#### 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**

Peggy Maslow, President 883-2130 Jill Vomacka, Vice President 671-9823 Belinda Nielsen, Secretary 628-1315 Micheal Henahan, Treasurer 627-7018

#### **DIRECTORS and COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Education - Peggy Maslow Membership - Kathryne Natale 759-0925 Conservation - J.Wilson-Pines 767-3454 Publicity - Nancy Tognan 718-225-8064 Programs - Jill Vomacka, 671-9823 Jeanne Millspaugh 723-0269 Field Trips - Barbara Garriel 628-9022

Leaderless Walks-Wendy Murbach 546-6303 Editor - Jennifer Wilson-Pines 767-3454 Hospitality - Joyce Bryk

Special Projects - Jill Vomacka

#### **APPOINTED COMMITTEES**

Website Thomas Natale tom@tlnj.net www.northshoreaudubon.org Field Notes

Please send to: Rich Kelly e-mail vze2dxmi1@verizon.net Newsletter

This newsletter is printed four times a year. Please submit articles for the newsletter to: Jennifer Wilson-Pines, 7 Cottonwood Road Port Washington, NY 11050 email prefered jwpines@gmail.com Problems with your National Audubon membership? Call 1-800-274-4201 GarviesWebsite www.garviespointmuseum.

TR Sanctuary ny.audubon.org/trsac.htm Injured Wildlife

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.northshoreaudbon.org; nsaudubonsoceity@gmail.com and North Shore Audubon on Facebook



#### Ralph Cioffi 1929 - June 30, 2017 The Man Behind the Field Notes

What lured me to North Shore Audubon (then Lyman Langdon Audubon) in the 1970s was the field notes. Every issue of the chapter's newsletter very carefully chronicled the rare and not-so-rare birds that would show up on Long Island. Ralph Cioffi's name was synonymous with precision editorship of these field notes. When I finally met Ralph in the late 1990's, I couldn't believe what a kind and friendly man he was. Ralph's desire to teach everything he knew about birds was inexhaustible.

I asked Ralph if I could pal around with him in his "patch" of birding on the North Shore. I think at first he shrugged me off, but I was persistent. Little did I know the simple matter was that I couldn't fit into his car because of his over abundance of "birding" paraphernalia, which enveloped every crevice of his stately jalopy. There was absolute order to the disorder of his auto. He knew where every bird book, feeder, seed bag, glove, scarf and can of soup could be found, though there was no room for me. So I started taking him around in my car.

Car birding was Ralph's specialty and he could pick out the flit of a darting sharp-shinned hawk through the trees, and hear orchard oriole and warbling vireo like no other. When it turned to spring or fall we would sit on my patio and wait for the warblers to come to us at my backyard pond. Since Ralph was not mobile, he could sit and prop his arms up on the picnic table when the birds came into view. We had such good times! We couldn't believe our eyes when one day in the fall of 2014 we watched 14 species of warblers bathe in the gentle flow of the stream. Never one to turn down a meal, he would gratefully accept my offerings at that picnic table, though in season he would bring vegetables grown down the road at his second home, St. Josephat's Monastery. I'm pretty sure he joined the congregation just to befriend the monks so he could birdwatch on the property. The gardens and old orchards bustled with birdlife, and nighthawks in autumn were his big game. I think he counted the most migrating nighthawks on the North Shore in a single evening.

Whether he was finding rarities like the Western Kingbird at the end of Garvies Point Road, or looking for the first spring Piping Plovers in Bayville, or watching a Painted Bunting and Pileated Woodpecker in the Piping Rock Club's maintenance "dump", he loved birds and birders loved Ralph.

As early as the 1960s, spearheading early conservation efforts, Ralph, by documenting rare birds, was instrumental in preserving the Hempstead Plains, Welwyn Preserve and Stillwell Woods to name just a few of our cherished open spaces. These are among the last bastions of nature on Long Island and we have Ralph to thank for that.

Ralph fought to prevent the development of the Glen Cove waterfront at Garvies Point, where, as a boy, he birded and drank from the artesian springs. In the end it was perhaps his most bitter disappointment.

Mary Normandia

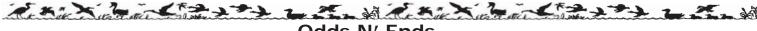
My memories of Ralph are of a very quiet, nice, helpful man. He would explain, very carefully, all his knowledge of birds and their habits. He was meticulous about keeping all the Field Notes for 43 years, he said it gave him such pleasure and satisfaction to record everything that people saw, the locations and times of the year. Ralph was a Conservation chair, a President, and each important Chapter Anniversary celebrated, he was on the organizing Committee. He gave so much to the chapter. Ralph will be missed so very much, as are all the other chapter members who have gone before him.

Lindy Nielsen

I first met Ralph about 20 years ago when he was still a very active birder, though he preferred to car bird even then. His astonishing knowledge of local birds was always my go to for a difficult identification. Beyond that he was a genuinely nice, sharing his knowledge easily and without a hint of superiority. I now have to recall that some of that knowledge is gone forever when I unthinkingly reach for a phone to ask him a question. His enthusiasm when a new or noteworthy bird was spotted was infectious.

Jennifer Wilson-Pines





#### Odds N' Ends

#### **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. \$4 adults, \$2 children 5-12 www.garviespointmuseum.com

#### Nature Films Tues thru Sat. check website for schedule

Wednesday, May 17 – July 5 • 10am – 1pm Wednesday, September 13 – November 8 ● 10am – 1pm FALL JEWELRY WORKSHOP

8-Session Workshop for adults, \$240 Advance registration & payment required. Wednesdays, September 13, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8. No class Sept. 20 Space limited, sign up today.

**Garvies Point Museum and Preserve Special Events** Fees in addition to entrance are noted per person **50th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT: SEASHELLS** 

NATURE'S INSPIRED DESIGN Opens July 15, Runs through Dec 30.

#### Saturday, September 16 • 10am - 2pm **VOLUNTEER EVENT: PORCELAIN BERRY**

Help remove non-native invasive vine Ampelopsis also called Porcelain Berry from our nature preserve. Light refreshments. Please RSVP

Saturday, September 23 • 10am – 12pm **COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY** See cover for details Saturday, October 21 • 2pm – 3pm **OWL DISCOVERY PROGRAM** 

Meet live owls and get an in-depth look into the fascinating world of these common-but seldom seen-local inhabitants! Presented by Volunteers for Wildlife, sponsored by Friends of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve. Advance registration required. \$10/adult \$5/child 5-12 years. \$8/adult member \$3/child member. Includes Owl Discovery program, light refreshments plus museum admission. Recommended ages 5 +

#### Saturday, October 28 • 11am – 3pm, ongoing HALLOWEEN BAT CRAFT

\$5.00 per participant, in addition to museum admission. Film: Animal Adventures: Bat Adventures (30 mins.)

Sat & Sun, November 18 & 19 • 10am – 4pm **NATIVE AMERICAN FEAST** See cover for details Saturday, November 25 • 11am & 1pm POPCORN & A MOVIE: DISNEY'S DINOSAUR

Join us for our feature film: Disney's animated, DINO-SAUR plus enjoy some popcorn and juice while you watch! (Film is 82 mins.)

DINOSAUR PUPPET CRAFT • 10am - 3pm, ongoing Make a fun dinosaur puppet. Program & craft included with museum admission

#### Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary

134 Cove Rd., Oyster Bay (516) 922-3200 http://ny.audubon.org/about-us/centers-sanctuarieschapters/theodore-roosevelt

#### Goat Guests by Barbara Mallon

If you haven't taken advantage of visiting the goats at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center you still have time before they return to Rhinebeck, NY.

The dozen four legged working guests were invited to eat invasive plants - primarily English Ivy. This method of control being natural, free from pesticides, and often times entertaining!

As long as fresh, clean water is provided daily and there is foliage to munch they are content. Yet, on their first nights stay some of the group got themselves "locked" into a small bird blind structure. Early in the morning, staff was greeted to the bleating of several desperate animals.

#### **Program** Saturday, November 4, 2017 9am

Early Bird Walk at **Old Westbury Gardens**. Gather in the Gardens to spy fall resident and feeder birds. A wildlife expert from the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center leads the outdoor tour. Bring binoculars for a closer look. Free with admission. All ages.

#### 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 pavable to:

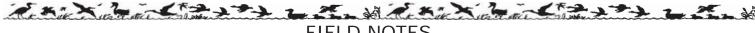
Friends of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve mail to:

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			



#### 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 Character of the control of
Bayv	ille		
5/26	nesting E. Kingbirds	Stehli Beach	Jim Madden
6/5	2 Piping Plover chicks	Stehli Beach	Jim Madden
6/7	Least Terns	Stehli Beach	Jim Madden
6/20	RT Hummingbird	Bayville yard	Jim Madden
8/4	RT Hummingbirds, Hairy Woodpecker, House Wren	Bayville yard	Jim Madden
8/12	Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated Sandpipers	Stehli Beach marsh	Jim Madden
Glen	·	Oteriii Deacii Illaisii	Jilli Maddell
7/26	Red-breasted Merganser	Mercadante Beach	Rich Kelly
7/26	25 species; Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wood Thrush (h), Rose-bre		•
1120	25 species, Sharp-shiriled Hawk, Wood Thidsir (11), Nose-big	GarviesPoint Preserve	
Groat	: Neck	Gaiviesi Ollit i Teserve	NOAS Walk
7/9	Red-eyed Vireo	Kings Point Park	Virginia Dankel
	st Valley	Kings i oliit i aik	Vilgilia Dalikei
7/12	23 species; Osprey, Wood Thrush (h), Cedar Waxwing, Hous	e Finch Bailey Arboretum	NSAS walk
	ontown	e i ilicii balley Arboretaili	NOAG Walk
5/17	25 species; Turkey Vulture, Veery (h), Wood Thrush, Scarlet	Tanager	
3/17		•	walk; leader Lindy Nielsen
5/31	37 species; Green Herons, Black-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flyca		
3/31	·	man Center NSAS walk;	
6/28	24 species; Turkey Vulture, White-eyed Vireo (h), Veery (h), V		
0/20	24 species, rankey values, venue-cyca virco (11), veery (11), v	Muttontown Preserve	NSAS walk
7/29	15 Wood Ducks (14 young)	Hoffman Center	Virginia Dankel
	er Bay	Homman Genter	Viiginia Dankei
8/2	17 species; R T Hummingbird	Planting Fields Arb.	NSAS walk
	Washington/ Sands Point	r landing r leids Alb.	NOAO Walk
6-7/2		served Manhasset Ra	y Jennifer Wilson-Pines
6/9	Green Heron, Bank Swallow colony Sands Point Preserv		n-Pines, Peggy Maslow
6/12	2 Great Black-back gulls trying to swallow an eel from either		Jennifer Wilson-Pines,
Rosly	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	end baxter beach	Jennier Wilson-Fines,
5/27	28 species; 4 C. Ravens (2 presumed young), 2 Canada War	blore Scarlot Tanagar Dag	es broasted Greebeak
3/2/		en Bryant Preserve NSAS	
6/7		•	
6/7	22 species; Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo,		
C/4.4	25 an acida. Turkay Multura Camray C. Bayan (b) Vallay Mar	Hempstead Harbor	NSAS walk
6/14	25 species; Turkey Vulture, Osprey, C. Raven (h), Yellow War		Duran MCAC
	CICUTINGS OUTSIDE NOA	William Cullen Bryant F	Preserve INSAS walk
0 41	SIGHTINGS OUTSIDE NSAS	STERRITORY	
	1 Shore	anklana ira Naskvilla Car	an Mary Day bus acted
5/16	44 species; Solitary Sandpiper, Least Flycatcher, 17 species		-
	Blackburnian, Canada, Wilson's Warbler, Scarlet Tanager Hel		Barbara Garriel
7/17	2 Brown Pelicans		h Kelly, Al Lindberg
7/19	30 species; Snow Goose, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Lesse		
- 1-		Oceanside	NSAS walk
8/9	30 species; Green Heron, Forster's Tern, E. Kingbird, Black&'	White Warbler, Am. Redsta	rt

**Suffolk County** 

6/23 Chimney Swifts Caumsett SP Virginia Dankel Virginia Dankel Caumsett SP 7/8 **Baltimore Oriole** 

Email sightings to Rich Kelly at vze2dxmi1@verizon.net



Massapequa Preserve NSAS walk



### Jump-start Birds' Journeys with a Migration Ready Yard

adapted from Droll Yankee website

Migrating birds are now making their way south for winter. Some people believe this is the time to cut back on their backyard feeding so they don't distract these birds on the move. This could not be further from the truth. Offering a steady, plentiful bounty of delicious treats could make a world of difference for tired and energy drained feathered friends. Migrating birds need abundant sources of food and water to boost their energy as they make their lengthy flights. With the beginning of fall and the onset of colder weather comes a decrease in the once plentiful resources available in summer. Birds are in competition for dwindling resources. Backyard bird feeders alleviate the shortage by increasing the availability of food. Here are some tips on how to make your yard more appealing and helpful to migrating birds, including what to offer in your feeders.

If you haven't been feeding during the summer (and that is a missed opportunity to see the new fledglings being introduced to your backyard bounty) then start small until the birds find your feeders again - too much seed will simply go bad from rain and heat. It may take a few weeks. Thoroughly clean your feeders before putting them back out - and if you use tube or house styles, be prepared to remove and clean every 2 weeks or so with a weak bleach solution. Bird supply stores sell large bottle cleaners for tube feeders.

#### Preparing your yard for migrating birds:

Keep winter birds in mind when planting—Fall is time to plant trees and shrubs. If you are buying a fruiting plant, get one that has berries on it for instant attraction see Audubon's native plant list at https://www.audubon. org/native-plants. Winter birds benefit from a yard that provides them cover and on-going natural food sources, in addition to feeders. Planting some evergreens in your yard will provide a dense cover that birds can use in colder months to get away from predators and get some shelter from the elements, after other trees lose their leaves. Plant some shrubs with longer lasting berries, such as bayberry or holly, which winter birds can snack on for necessary energy. You can also leave the seed heads in your flower gardens at the end of summer for birds to enjoy.

Put out more feeders— The more feeders you have out, the more birds you can accommodate and the less competition there will be. A variety of feeder types will also let you offer more variety in your food choices, like

sunflower seed in a tube feeder, suet in a suet cage, and mealworms in a small dish feeder.

Clear out old nests and nesting materials from nest boxes so birds can take advantage of them safely during the winter months - spray the interiors with a 9-1 bleach solution to kill overwintering insects like mites. Clean your feeders thoroughly at the start of fall when the temperature outside makes this chore more pleasant. Keeping your feeders clean is the best thing you can do for the birds. Disease can spread via feeders.

Prepare windows to prevent bird strikes—Birds, especially ones new to your area, cannot distinguish a reflecting window from the nature around it. Providing some disruption to the glass' reflective surface is essential so birds will realize it's a solid barrier. You can use soap streaks on the outside of the window or a decal. (Don't just pull your blinds or curtains closed, which could make the reflections worse!)

#### Let the water flow:

Migrating birds get thirsty too! A bird bath with fresh, clean water available gives traveling birds a place to rehydrate and get a drink, or even a quick bath. Be sure to be extra attentive to cleaning your bird bath in these times of increased traffic to prevent disease.

Give your water feature a splash of sound- Birds will be even more attracted to the water if it's moving. Adding a bubbler or mister can bring in a larger variety of birds.

Invest in a heated bird bath. Just make sure that winter access is only for drinking by putting in pebbles or laying twigs across. Some birds will assume open water means it's warm enough to bathe.

#### Food for Flight:

**Black oil sunflower seeds-** High in fatty oils, which are good for both migrating birds needing energy and winter birds storing up reserves for a cold winter.

**Suet-** Offers the necessary fat for energy and temperature regulation in migration and surviving cold days and draws in a more diverse variety that may not eat seed. **Nuts-** High in fatty oils to provide energy and favored by woodpeckers.

**Berries-** Many birds that feast on high-protein insects in summer switch to fruit and berries in the colder months when bugs are harder to come by.

**Nectar-** Don't take your nectar feeders down as soon as your last hummer or oriole resident leaves. Leave your feeders up at least a week after you have seen the last hummer to give stragglers time to catch up.

**Mealworms**– Excellent source of energy and protein. They can be purchased in bulk online.

Retire X de tout Chart 272 2 2 2 Q Retire X de tout Chart 272 2 2 2 2

#### 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.

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### North Shore Audubon Society



