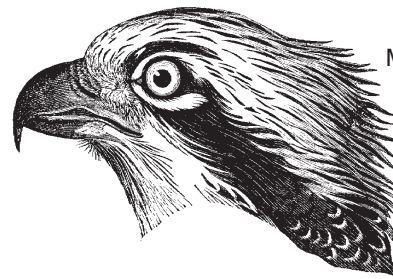


The Osprey's

Platform

North Shore Audubon Society
Serving Northern Nassau County

VOL. 68 Issue # 3
March-April-May 2018



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

.....
WHERE CAN I GET NATIVE PLANTS?

NSAS will be having a **Native Plant Sale** this spring. The order forms will be available on the website and at Garvies Point Museum soon.

- SATURDAY MAY 5 IS PICK UP DAY.
- MUST PRE-ORDER & PRE-PAY.
- ADDITIONAL SURPRISE NATIVE PLANTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE THAT DAY

.....
May 22

Preparing for Climate Change
Mark Lowery

Our changing climate is affecting both human environments and ecological communities. Tropical storms make headlines, but other risks are also on the increase. Signals of climate change include droughts and intense rains, heat waves, earlier springs and latter frost, and impact on temperature sensitive species. These less dramatic changes might proceed quite far before their harmful effects are recognized. Mr Lowry will give an overview of climate science and the effects of climate change, with a focus on New York's birds and other natural resources. He will describe several New York State programs to adapt to our changing climate.

A 30-year veteran of the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Mark Lowery serves as a climate policy analyst in DEC's Office of Climate Change. He previously worked as a senior wildlife biologist, regional citizen participation specialist and chief of DEC's Bureau of Public Outreach. Mark holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa. and a master's degree in environmental and forest biology from the State University of NY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse.

March 27

Saving Jamaica Bay
Dan Hendrick

Saving Jamaica Bay tells the story of how one community fought government inaction and overcame Hurricane Sandy to clean up and restore the largest open space in New York City, which had become a dumping ground. Narrated by actress Susan Sarandon, Saving Jamaica Bay underscores the importance of citizen action and the role of urban nature in protecting our cities from the effects of climate change.

With more than a decade of experience working on environmental issues, Dan is ideally positioned to produce this first-ever documentary on Jamaica Bay. He is the author of "Jamaica Bay," Arcadia Press, 2006, and spent years as the editor of a local newspaper covering Jamaica Bay, the residents who depend on it, and the challenges it faces. A graduate of Columbia University, Dan currently works in the renewable energy industry.

.....
April 24

Using LI Native Plants to Protect Wildlife
Rusty Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt will explain why our native plants are important, show how to determine if a plant is native to Long Island, and how to place these plants together. By using native species in a habitat rich environment, we will have a positive impact on our fauna, especially birds and insects.

Professor Rusty Schmidt is a landscape ecologist employed by Nelson, Pope and Voorhis. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Horticulture Department at Farmingdale State College and President of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI). Mr. Schmidt designs and constructs alternate stormwater runoff systems, designs habitat restorations, complete ecosystems restorations, raingardens, basins and stormwater ponds, ranging from a small backyard to multi-acre projects. He co-authored three books "Plants for Stormwater Design" Vol 1 and 2, and a homeowner's guide, "Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens".





From the President: Peggy Maslow

As I am enjoying watching birds at my feeder in February, I am reminded that I need to start thinking of my yard and other projects to plant native plants to help birds. Planting native plants and other practices that go into making a bird-friendly habitat, not only attract birds but help them survive as some feeders probably do as well. If you want your yard to be certified as a bird-friendly habitat or want advice contact me at nsaudubonsociety@gmail.com. You can either add plants or remove non-native and invasive plants and replace them with natives. Since last May, at least 20 properties were certified or received advice from NSAS. Our website, Northshoreaudubon.org, has helpful resources. The NSAS speaker at our Manhasset Library April Program will be Rusty Schmidt, President of Long Island Native Plant Initiative, and an excellent speaker on native plants. You can visit native plant gardens at Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, Science Museum of Long Island, Planting Fields Arboretum's Bird Garden, and Clark Botanical Garden's Butterfly and Rain Garden. You can order plants from NSAS native plant sale. Separate order form and instructions will be posted on our website.

Here is a list of 29 native plants we recommend for our area: To see photographs online go to northshoreaudubon.org/use-native-plants

Spring perennials that like shade and wet

1. Native columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*
2. Creeping phlox *Phlox stolonifera*
3. Wild geranium *Geranium maculatum*
4. Bee balm *Monarda dudyma*

Spring perennials that like sun

5. Moss-pink phlox *Phlox subulata*
6. Blue false indigo *Baptisia australis*

Summer perennials for sun and dry conditions

7. Cone flower *Echinacea purpurea*
8. Butterfly weed *Asclepius tuberosa*
9. Tickseed *Coreopsis verticillata*

Summer perennial-like wet and tolerate shade

10. Cardinal flower *Lobelia cardinalis*
11. Black-eyed susan *Rudbeckia hirta*

Fall perennials that tolerate most conditions

12. New England aster *Aster novae-angliae*

13. goldenrod *Solidago rugosa*

Fall perennial that likes it wet

14. Joe-pye weed *Eupatorium maculatum*

Evergreen bushes with berries

15. Inkberry *Ilex glabra* (needs male and female for berries)

16. Northern bayberry *Myrica pensylvanica*

Spring flowering bushes with berries

17. Viburnums *Viburnum nudum*, *Viburnum acerifolium*

Summer flowering bushes preferring wet

18. Oakleaf hydrangia *Hydrangea quercifolia*

19. Summersweet *Clethra alnifolia*

20. High bush blueberries *Vaccinium corymbosum*

Winter berries on bush

21. Winterberry holly *Ilex verticillata*

Evergreen tree

22. Eastern red cedar *Juniperus virginiana*

Small trees that flower in Spring and have wonderful berries

23. Dogwood *cornus florida*

24. Serviceberry *Amelanchier arborea*

Large deciduous trees

25. There are oak trees for every soil condition. *Quercus*

Vines

26. Virginia creeper *Parthenococcus quinquefolia*

27. Trumpet honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*

Grasses

28. Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*

29. Muhly grass *Muhlenbergia capilaris*



Thank you to ClimateWatch Volunteers

The National Audubon research program, Climate-Watch, that studies the effects of climate change on birds over the last few years, recruited citizen science volunteers to survey different areas. We recorded all the birds we saw or heard on ebird.org but specifically looked for bluebirds and nuthatches. Fourteen people graciously volunteered between January 15 and February 15: Barbara Garriel, Shelley Ventresca, Lindy Nielson, Nancy Tognan, Ian Resnick, Harvey Farber, Irene Bareis, Ed Becher, Mike Zito, Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Stephane Perault, Evan Hutchison, Liz Dinapoli and Steve Schellenger. There is a break until you are needed to survey your area once again between May 15 and June 15.





SPRING 2018 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.

March

Wed. 2/28 Mill Pond-Bellmore 546-6303 Wendy
Wed. 3/7 Jones Beach W End Coast Guard Station Wendy
Sat. 3/10 Stehli Beach 628-1315 Lindy Nielsen
Wed. 3/14 Jones Beach Coast Guard Station Leaderless walk
Sat. 3/17 Massapequa Preserve (train stn. Parking lot)
785-3375 Ralph Matrigrano
Wed. 3/21 Hempstead Lake St. Pk. (Pkg. lot 3) 423-0947 Stephane
Sat. 3/24 Alley Pond Envir. Center 718-224-8432 Trudy Horowitz
Wed. 3/28 Shu Swamp 628-1315 Lindy
Sat. 3/31 Muttontown Preserve (main entrance) 785-3375 Ralph

April

Wed. 4/4 Alley Pond Pk. 718-343-1391 Lenore Figueroa
& 718-224-8432 Trudy
Sat. 4/7 Oceanside Preserve 785-3375 Ralph
Wed. 4/11 JB Coast Guard 413-6396 Peggy Maslow
Sat. 4/14 Jamaica Bay 718-343-1391 Lenore
Wed. 4/18 Lido Beach Passive area 423-0947 Stephane Perreault
Sat. 4/21***8am Hempstead Lake State Park 987-8103 Steve
Wed. 4/25 St. Josaphat's Monastery 628-9022 Barbara Garriel
Sat. 4/28***8am Humes Property 628-9022 Barbara
(coordinated with Land Alliance)

May

Wed. 5/2 Hemp. Lake St. Pk. North end (pkg. lot 1) 423-0947 Stephane
Sat. 5/5 ***8am Muttontown (Equestrian entrance) 941-7434 Jennifer WP
Wed. 5/9 Hempstead Lake State Park (Parking lot #2) 785-3375 Ralph
Sat. 5/12***6:30 start time **BIG DAY** Alley Pond Park 76th Ave meet in
parking lot QCBC Leader Ian Resnick 917-626-9562.
After lunch, the day continues for those who choose.
Wed. 5/16 Muttontown Pres. (Equestrian entrance) 628-1315 Lindy
Sat. 5/19 ***8am Deserversky Center NYIT campus 404-1984 Liz DiNapoli
Wed. 5/23 Hoffman Center 628-9022 Barbara
Sat. 5/26 Nassau Fine Arts Museum 621-6678 Joyce Bryk
Wed. 5/30 Planting Fields Arboretum 413-6396 Peggy

June

Wed. 6/13 ***8am Nickerson Beach tern and skimmer colony
423-0947 Stephane
(hefty parking fee applies starting at 9am)

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 - Kathryn Natale 759-0925
Conservation - J.Wilson-Pines 767-3454
Publicity - Nancy Tognan 718-225-8064
Programs - Jill Vomacka, 671-9823 Jeanne
Millsbaugh 723-9269
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

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



Long Island Water Conservation

Before you sign up for another season of lawn care, please read this important message:

Long Island is a unique place for many reasons, but one of the most important is that we're completely surrounded by water, and our drinking water comes from ancient underground aquifers. We all need clean water to drink, of course, and for swimming, fishing and boating. But we also depend on clean water to support our tourism industry and our wide variety of marine-dependent businesses.

Keeping our water clean is a priority –and a responsibility – of everyone who lives on Long Island. One important way to help keep our water clean is to avoid using water-soluble, high-nitrogen lawn fertilizers that can leach through our sandy soil or run off with storm water, contaminating our drinking and surface waters. And we should be using natural methods to control weeds and pests instead of harmful chemical pesticides that can also contribute to pollution.

There are many excellent low-nitrogen fertilizers available, and most professional landscapers are qualified to manage weeds and pests without chemical pesticides. So this year, before you sign that lawn care contract, ask your landscaping professional to maintain your property without contributing to water pollution on Long Island! This message comes from the "I Love Long Island" campaign. Go to IloveLongIsland.org for a list of landscapers if you need one or a list of garden centers that sell the safe products for your lawn care.

Chapter Elections

Every 2 years, the North Shore chapter holds elections for officers of the board. Election is held at our May 22 meeting. All North Shore Chapter Members are eligible to vote. The slate for 2018-2020 is

President	Peggy Maslow
Vice President	Jill Vomacka
Secretary	Lindy Nielsen
Treasurer	Eva Turel

NSAS offers members a quarterly print newsletter, or pdf email delivery, redesigned website and both a Facebook page and a group for more up to the minute information. www.northshoreaudbon.org

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



Volunteer for the Birds

Happy spring! Audubon New York coast staff are gearing up for another busy field season and are looking forward to continue working with local partners on shorebird conservation. Our seasonal staff will work with partners and volunteers to steward and monitor beach-nesting birds and engage local communities in bird conservation.

On Saturday, February 10th, we kicked off our series of spring conservation action days with our annual tern shelter building event. Since 2014, we have helped protect terns on Great Gull Island, a 17 acre island that is located within the Long Island Sound, just a few miles east of Plum Island, NY. Previously used as an army fort, the island now provides critical nesting habitat for the largest colony of Roseate Terns (federally and NYS endangered) in the Western Hemisphere and the largest colony of Common Terns (NYS threatened) in the world. This year, we will build additional wooden "teepee" shelters that staff will later deliver to Great Gull Island for the island's growing tern population.

Our next volunteer event is string fencing on Saturday March 31st at 10 AM. We will work together to install symbolic string fencing around Piping Plover nesting habitat at Centre Island and Stehli beaches in Bayville. We need a lot of help with this critical event, so please join us if you can! We plan to host two additional conservation action days this spring, including a day trip to Great Gull Island where we'll help locate and map tern nests. To join the Audubon New York coast mailing list or to sign up for one of these upcoming events, please email NYcoast@audubon.org.

Finally, we will be looking for volunteers to assist with the "Be a Good Egg" outreach program. The goal of the "Be a Good Egg" outreach initiative is to reduce human disturbance to beach-nesting birds like the Piping Plover by encouraging beach-goers to share the shore. During our "on the beach" outreach events we table at the entrances of priority Long Island beaches and educate beach-goers about our local birds. We ask beach-goers to sign our "Be a Good Egg" pledge to stay out of fenced-off nesting areas, keep trash off the beach, and keep dogs off of nesting beaches. To date, over 9,000 beach-goers have signed the pledge to share the shore with birds! We have been fortunate that PSEG and the National Fish and Wildlife LISFF have provided funding to support this program. This year, our goal is to get 3,000 new pledges. If you haven't yet taken the pledge, please head over to ny.audubon.org/BGE to sign the pledge online. This year, we plan to host on-the-beach events during the weekends of June and July at sites on both the north and south shores of Long Island. Please email NYcoast@audubon.org to learn how you can volunteer as an outreach steward.

Amanda Pachomski
Long Island Bird Conservation Manager
Audubon New York





Family Fun Events

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
Unless noted films and crafts included with admission
www.garviespointmuseum.com

Nature Films Tues thru Sat. check website for schedule

WORLD WATER DAY FILM SERIES

In celebration of World Water Day on March 22, Enjoy a variety of water worlds. Each film is 25 minutes long.

Tues, 3/20: "Where Water is Born" - Mountaintop lakes

Weds, 3/21: "Soup of Life" Freshwater ecosystems

Thurs, 3/22: "Kingdom of Tides" Estuaries

Fri, 3/23: "On the Seaside" Shorelines

Sat, 3/24: "The Big Blue" The Ocean

Saturday, March 24 • 10am – 2pm

VOLUNTEER EVENT: JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

PULL Help remove non-native invasive Japanese Honeysuckle from our nature preserve. Light refreshments for our volunteers. Please RSVP

SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, April 3

ALL ABOUT BIRDS • 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Learn about "field marks" for a quick ID, their habitats, and how they act, plus learn how to use binoculars. Bring your own, we have some available if needed.

BIRD-FEEDER CRAFT • 10am – 4pm, ongoing

Make a bird-feeder out of recycled materials so you can enjoy & observe birds. Includes starter pack of bird seed.

FILM: "All About Birds" (23 mins.) • 10am, 12pm, 2pm

Wednesday, April 4

SPRING NATURE WALK • 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Be a nature detective! We will investigate and explore the spring woodland and meadow environments

FLOWER & NATURE ORIGAMI CRAFT 10– 4, ongoing

FILM: "All About Food Chains" (23 mins.) • 10, 12, 2

Thursday, April 5

LIVE LONG ISLAND WILDLIFE • 11-3, ongoing

Enjoy our live animal presentation and learn about animals that live right here. In cooperation with Tackapau-sha Museum.

ANIMAL SAND-ART CRAFT • 10 – 4, ongoing

FILM: "All About Animal Adaptations" (23 mins.) 10, 12, 2

Friday, April 6 • 10 & 12

BEACH DISCOVERY

Explore the shoreline for snails, mussels, crabs & more! Learn how they adapt to this harsh environment

SAND-CASTING CRAFT • 10am – 4pm, ongoing

Create a beautiful keepsake of the beach!

FILM: "Eyewitness: Seashore" (35 mins.) • 10 12, 2

Saturday, April 7 • 10am – 4pm

DINOSAUR DAY!!! Learn from our dinosaur experts, see and touch real fossils, dress up like a dinosaur, try our "fossil" dig, PLUS make your own "fossil" to take home!

*\$5.00 per person, 3 years & younger free,

FILM: "Prehistoric Planet", narrated by Ben Stiller.

Saturday, April 21 • 10am - 4pm, ongoing

EARTH DAY TERRARIUM CRAFT

Celebrate Earth Day and make an enclosed ecosystem!

Includes everything you need: glass jar, plants, soil, pebbles. \$8.00/participant, in addition to museum admission. \$5.00/participant for members.

Thursday, April 26 • 2pm & 3pm

J.J. AUDUBON'S BIRTHDAY FILM:

"John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature" (1 hr.)

This film creates a meaningful portrait of Art and Science in the first decades of the 19th century.

Friday, April 27 • 2pm & 3pm

ARBOR DAY FILM: "The Man Who Planted Trees" (30 mins.) Classic animated film about a man who planted 100 acorns a day for 30 years and single handedly transformed an arid landscape back to life.

Saturday, April 28 • 10am – 2pm

VOLUNTEER EVENT: GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

Help remove non-native invasive Garlic Mustard from our nature preserve. Light refreshments for our volunteers. Please RSVP

Saturday, May 5 • 10am – 4pm, ongoing

MOTHER'S DAY SEASHELL NECKLACE CRAFT

\$5.00 per participant, in addition to museum admission. Make a beautiful necklace for mom, grandma, aunt or any wonderful person out there!

Saturday, May 12 • 10am

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY WALK

Included with museum admission.

Around this time of year is the height of returning migratory birds. Join us as we observe our favorite birds of field and woods during their spring return. Feel free to BYOB, binoculars that is, we also have some available if needed. Join us!

FILM: "Watching Warblers" (1 hr.) • 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Saturday, May 19 • 10am – 2pm

VOLUNTEER EVENT: JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Help remove non-native invasive plant Japanese Knotweed from our nature preserve. Light refreshments for our volunteers. Please RSVP

Tuesday, May 22 – Saturday, May 26 • 3pm each day

NATURE FILM SERIES (1 hr. each)

Tues, 5/22: "American Eagle"

Weds, 5/23: "What Plants Talk About"

Thurs, 5/24: "Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air"

Fri, 5/25: "Incredible Journey of the Butterflies"

Sat, 5/26: "Animal Misfits"



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 Josphaps 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			
11/15	28 species; Brant, Surf Scoter, White-Winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Com. Loon, Belted Kingfisher	Stehli Beach NSAS walk;	leader Lindy Nielsen
11/15	Bald Eagle (i), Killdeer	Bayville marina	NSAS walk
11/18	14 species; Com Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Sanderling, Snow Bunting	Stehli Beach	Barbara Garriel
11/18	16 species; Carolina Wren	Madden yard	Barbara Garriel
11/2	Com Loon, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk	Fox Point	James Jones
11/20	Kingfisher	Bayville marina	Jim Madden
12/7	2 Bald Eagles on nest	From Bayville marina	Jim Madden
12/20	Red-winged Blackbird, Brown Thrasher, Purple Finch	Bayville yard	Jim Madden
12/31	Red-shouldered Hawk	Bayville yard	Jim Madden
2/2	Red-shouldered Hawk	Bayville yard	Jim Madden

Manhasset

11/18	17 species; Green-winged Teal	Whitney Pond Park	NSAS walk; leader Jennifer Wilson-Pines
11/18	Scaup sp., Bufflehead, Red-throated Loon, Com Loon, Laughing Gull	Manhasset Bay	NSAS walk;
11/22	36 species; 8 sparrows incl. 30 Chipping, 3 Field, 20 Fox, 25 Savannah, 6 Swamp Sparrows	Greentree Estate	NSAS walk; leader Stephane Perrault
12/25	Shovelers	Whitney Pond Park	Virginia Dankel

Mill Neck

1/22	N. Pintail	Lower Francis Pond	Lindy Nielsen, Rich Kelly
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Muttontown

11/26	Blue-winged Teal	Hoffman Center	Virginia Dankel
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Oyster Bay

12/6	20 species; Hooded Merganser, Red-throated Loon, 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Kingfisher	St. John's Pond and vicinity	NSAS walk
1/14	Townsend's Solitaire	Tiffany Creek	Barbara Garriel, Joan Parry, Sheila Meehan, Rich Kelly, Al & Lois Lindberg
1/18	Ross's Goose	Oyster Bay High School ballfield	Paul Guildersleeve
1/22	N. Pintail	Oyster Bay Mill Pond	Lindy Nielsen, Rich Kelly
1/31	18 species; Golden-crowned Kinglet, E. Bluebird	Planting Fields Arboretum	NSAS walk

Port Washington/ Sands Point

11/15	Bald Eagle (i)	Bar Beach	Jennifer Wilson-Pines
12/29	Green-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers	Baxter Pond	Virginia Dankel
2/1	60 Long-tailed Ducks, 20 Com Goldeneye, 2 GBB Gulls,	Sands Point Preserve	Jennifer Wilson-Pines

Roslyn

12/7	Snowy Owl	East Hills	Glenn Bromberg
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SIGHTINGS OUTSIDE NSAS TERRITORY

Queens

12/8	Western Tanager	Crocheron Park, Bayside	Nancy Tognan
1/10	Greater White-fronted Goose , Redheads	Alley Pond (Restoration Pond)	Rich Kelly, Brendan Fogarty
1/10	Am Woodcock , Rusty Blackbirds	Alley Corridor	Rich Kelly
1/10	12 species; N. Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Coot, Hairy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Rusty Blackbird	Oakland Lake NSAS walk;	leader Andy Greller

Email sightings to Rich Kelly at vze2dxmi1@verizon.net



1/10 Ross's Goose South Jamaica Nancy Tognan, Jennifer Wilson-Pines

1/26 Gadwall, N. Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Coot Oakland Lake Virginia Dankel

South Shore

12/21 3 Harlequin Ducks, 4 Snowy Owls

Jones Beach Donald Hecht

1/20 Snowy Owl

Jones Beach Sheila Meehan, Lindy Nielsen

1/24 22 species; Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Com Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Great Horned Owl

Hempstead Lake St. Pk. NSAS walk

Suffolk County

11/29 28 species; Brant Geese, Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Killdeer, Yellow-rumped Warbler Sunken Meadow St. Pk. NSAS walk; leaders Sharon and Marc Brody

12/17 **Mountain Bluebird** Robert Moses St. Pk. Rich Kelly, Al Lindberg

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Under Threat

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act between the U.S. and Canada (MBTA) passed in 1918. The MBTA protected birds from the plume trade, market hunting, and habitat loss that drove some species to extinction, and others to the brink. The MBTA turned the tide and saved millions of birds and species.

Today, there are new threats to birds. More than one-third of North American bird species are of high concern and at risk of extinction without action, according to the 2016 State of the Birds report. Birds now face 21st century threats, and MBTA protections are as critical as ever. But the law is under threat.

The MBTA protects birds by making it unlawful to kill, hunt, sell, or possess most native species of birds along with their nests, eggs, and feathers, without a permit. The covered species are based on the treaties signed with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. That includes many species that are not protected under any other laws. In the modern era, millions of birds are killed "incidentally" each year from legal industrial activities such as oil waste pits, power lines, communications towers, and gas flares. Many of these deaths are avoidable with inexpensive solutions. Under the Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and many industries have come to agreement on measures that protect birds.

The FWS takes action where deaths are a direct result of the activity and are foreseeable, and after working with companies on practices that could reduce deaths. In 2015, FWS began a rulemaking process to consider options for legal authorization. Audubon supported this effort, but it was suspended in April 2017.

There are threats to the MBTA that could undermine or eliminate authority to require industries to protect birds. In December 2017, the Trump administration issued a legal opinion that the incidental take of birds is not prohibited and will not be enforced. In the House, as part of H.R. 4239, the SECURE American Energy Act, Rep. Liz Cheney added language that would amend the law to no longer cover incidental take. These changes would gut the MBTA by giving a free pass for bird deaths from industrial activities, and would end decades of practice by the FWS by removing their authority.

If MBTA protections are rolled back, it would turn back the clock on our environmental laws, and reduce

common-sense practices that protect birds. Without any legal obligation, industries would be left without incentives. Examples of successful collaborative efforts under the MBTA include the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC), and voluntary wind energy guidelines.

It would end the accountability from actions that kill birds. Companies who ignore best practices and kill birds would no longer face penalties. It removes a legal tool the federal government uses to recover damages from environmental disasters that are then returned to bird conservation. As part of the Gulf oil spill settlement, BP will pay \$100 million, which will be directed toward restoring wetland habitat.

Ultimately, the 950 species of birds not covered under the ESA or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act would be left with fewer or no protection. Conserving species proactively reduces the likelihood for ESA listings. While important progress has been made in rescuing birds from the brink, now is not the time to roll back vital protections. The MBTA is needed now as much as ever, and Audubon urges opposition to any effort that undermines America's cornerstone bird conservation law.

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