

# The Sandpiper

## Great South Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

### An Emerging Environmental Disaster, NEONICS Now Threaten our Planet's Balance of Nature Are Neonics in *Your* Garden?

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS and MONTHLY PROGRAMS

All GSBAS Activities are FREE and open to the public. Join us and bring a friend. General Membership Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, except May, (which is our Annual Dinner), July & August. Pre-program refreshments begin at 7:00. Program begins at 7:30 pm

#### Thursday, June 15 Annual Outdoor Program Brookside County Park, 59 Brook St. Sayville 6:00 pm

Our program this year will be presented by members of Quogue Wildlife Refuge. They will discuss the adaptations of various birds of prey that allow these animals to be such incredible hunters. Find out why they live at the Wildlife Center and learn about their role in the wild. You might see a screech owl, a barn owl and maybe even a great horned owl. You won't want to miss it!

This program is free, open to the public and will be held rain or shine. There will be a raffle and refreshments. Bring a blanket and/or chair. Parking is also available in the High School parking lot across the street.

#### Birding & Breakfast

Sunday • May 14 • 8:00 am

Connetquot River State Park Preserve

Continental breakfast hosted by  
Friends of Connetquot.

Reservations required - call

Connetquot River State Park Preserve at  
631-581-1072 to register.

Registration fee \$4 plus \$8 parking fee per  
car - unless you have yearly Empire pass.

by Gail Marquardt Black

The most widely used group of pesticides in today's world are neonicotinoids, also known as neonics. Meant to protect against sap-sucking and leaf-chewing insects, neonics are systemic poisons which are absorbed into the entire plant including its pollen and nectar. Besides extensive agricultural use, this class of insecticides is commonly found in residential lawn and garden products such as foliar sprays, chemically coated seeds, soil drenches, tree inoculants, as well as in chemically treated potting soils and fertilizers. It's also present in nursery plants that are treated with neonic chemicals.

In use since the late 1990s neonics are now causing acute environmental problems warning of a possible "silent spring". The existing threat that very small amounts of a neonic chemical pose to honeybees, known as "colony collapse disorder", is well-documented. However, small amounts of these neonic pesticides are also extremely toxic to other invertebrates, as well as to birds. One seed coated with these poisons is actually enough to kill a songbird, and lesser amounts can affect bird reproduction. A neonic pesticide has also been implicated in Monarch butterfly decline. Curiously, amounts of these insecticides used in residential garden products can greatly exceed concentrations allowed in commercial agricultural products. An alarming fact about neonicotinoids is that these pesticides can infiltrate entire food chains. They persist in the environment, collect in groundwater and affect invertebrates in the food chain with generally irreversible toxicity. Many surface waters already contain such high levels of neonics that they are able to destroy aquatic invertebrate life needed to support birds, bats and varied pollinators.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has investigated environmental dangers from neonic chemicals for years, conducting notable studies in 2013 and 2015. Currently ABC has begun a social media program to inform people about the ecological consequences of neonics' use. Other concerned environmental organizations---Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Pesticide Action Network, EcoJustice, Center for Food Safety, Sierra Club are a few--- and various state and local beekeeping societies have been waging an ongoing battle to have these chemicals banned. Unfortunately, the USDA has refused to review its approval, while the USEPA is only scheduled



*continued on bottom of page 6*

## Mission Statement

*The primary mission of the Great South Bay Audubon Society is to advocate for the conservation of habitats for native birds and other native wildlife on Long Island.*

## The Sandpiper

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Submission Deadline for next issue is June 9.  
send submissions to  
vlvcap@yahoo.com



## The Larry Merryman Memorial Library

is located at our Brookside Headquarters, 59 Brook St. in Sayville. It can be accessed Wednesday and Sunday from 1 to 3pm

## The Board-Walk by Annette Brownell

Spring is struggling to get under way. Still, with what seems to be unseasonable cold – at least to me (maybe I'm just getting old), as the trees are blooming and leafing out, one can't help the exciting planning that goes with the new spring season. The birds are singing away at 5:30 in the morning and bursts of color are everywhere.

As you read this, the Brookside Spring Cleanup has come and gone, as has the May dinner. But at the writing of this, they haven't happened yet, so there are no tales to tell. I can look ahead with you at some of the exciting and changing things happening – like our next art class.

As you may know, we have experimented with moving our monthly meeting to Brookside County Park. So far it has been a success and everyone seems to like the idea. Most likely we will continue this with the onset of the fall programs. Stay tuned. There will some new garden beds to attract pollinators and people to Brookside thanks to Girl Scout Troop 559. It's great to see the community interested in our little park.

I'd like to encourage each of you, as you begin to plan your growing season, to think about environmentally savvy ways to bring new life to your homes and gardens. Consider a rain garden. It is terrific for birds and pollinators, beautiful and environmentally fruitful in regard to storm water runoff. Consider leaving more natural areas in your yard. Birds love hanging out in and under clumps of bushes. Even if you don't feed them in the warm months, a birdbath is a must. Think twice before applying chemicals to your lawn (see Gail Marquardt Black's article on front page). Most important – make time to enjoy the wonderful things in nature around you. The sound of a bird singing is sweet!



## Heckscher Park by Harry Anderson

Tramping all over Heckscher State Park for decades has had its rewards. Without ever deliberately looking for the unusual, it has made its appearance with no effort on my part except just being in the right place at the right time. Some experiences were avian and some not.

Perhaps the most unusual birding sighting was the appearance of two White-fronted Geese, feeding with a group of Canada Geese near the boat basin. It was not really rare to see several Snow Geese flocking with them, but this pair of wanderers from the north Canadian tundra were not exactly a bird you look for in East Islip. A Glossy Ibis once hung around large rain pool in a parking lot for weeks, but an Upland Sandpiper once spotted on a median did not stick around.

There is a pond on the east of the boat basin that is accessible at low tide if you jump across a narrow stream. The pond is surrounded by a berm. One day as I cleared its top, I spooked wall-to-wall Black Ducks. Their explosion into the sky was deafening and heart-pounding. On another day, during migration, a flock of Black Ducks flew east in such numbers, they obliterated the view of Fire Island. Bobwhite are rare but several made themselves known near the pool for several days. For several years, Killdeer nested near the beach parking lot, pulling their broken-wing routine as you walked by. No more.

Northern Harriers nested in the inner marsh once and could be spotted daily as they swooped low. Walking a path through phragmites one morning, I looked up to see a Merlin flying right at me. It swooped so close it looked me in the eye and just cleared my head.

Decades ago, if you tramped through the marshy land on the east rim of the park, you would come upon 12 or more Great Blue Heron. Ring-necked Pheasants could also be found until the resident fox took them out.

Something a fox would also love to get its jaws around was a Chinese Golden Pheasant, leisurely feeding on the ground, an escapee, only seen once.

There were confrontations with wildlife: challenged by a rutting stag with antlers lowered and pawing the ground, chased by a mother fox, and tested by a snapping turtle as big as a manhole cover who was reluctant to be coaxed off the road. Other experiences include a nursing fawn, a five foot long black snake and a virtually albino White-tailed Deer.

Want the bizarre? A twin engined Cessna quietly sitting on an east median, a llama, and a team of huskies pulling a wheeled dog sled in July.

One summer there were so many gypsy moths, if you stood still you could actually hear them eating. And believe it or not, there were early years when ticks were virtually unknown. Today, they are so numerous that the park abounds in ominous warning signs.

One constant now other than the ticks are the Ospreys who always return on schedule. The deer and the Canada Geese also still abide along with the usual suspects. This 1,469 acre park, originally the estate of George C. Taylor and J. Neal Plum, still offers peace, calm and surprises.



# Great South Bay Audubon Society Activities

## General Membership Meetings, Programs and Events

**There are no General Membership Meetings held in July and August.  
Location for Sept. General Membership Meeting will be announced in the next issue.**

### June General Membership Program

Join us at Brookside County Park for our annual Outdoor Program which begins at 6:00. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Refreshments will be served. The park is located on the north side of Brook Street, diagonally across from Sayville High School. Directions From the West and East via Sunrise Highway: Sunrise Highway to Locust Avenue South, to Montauk Highway. Make a Left onto Montauk Highway, then a quick left onto Brook Street (traffic light). Continue 2 miles, just past Sayville High School. The entrance to the park is on the left. Look for large white sign that says "Brookside County Park". Park in the high school parking lot and walk across the street to the park.

### Louise Titus Memorial Tuesday Walks

- Tuesday May 2, 9:00, Belmont SP** Exit 38 off the Southern State Pkwy. Meet in the parking lot on the east side of the lake.
- Tuesday May 9, 9:00, Massapequa Preserve** Take Southern State Pkwy. to Exit 30 (Broadway south) to Pittsburgh Ave., go left 2 blocks to Parkside Blvd. Park on street, and walk into the park.
- Tuesday May 16, 9:00, Hempstead SP** Southern State Pkwy. to Exit 18 (Eagle Ave.) and proceed south to the second parking lot. Turn right and then left into parking lot 3.
- Tuesday May 23, 9:00, Oceanside & Jones Beach** Southern State Pkwy. to Meadowbrook Pkwy. South to Merrick Road (27A). Go west on Merrick Road a short distance and turn left on Mill Road and bear left (on Main Street) turn right on Atlantic Avenue to Waukena Ave. left to Park Avenue to Golf Drive (brown signs from Atlantic to Oceanside Marine EC)
- Tuesday May 30, 9:30, Shinnecock** Sunrise Hwy. East to Exit 65 South to Montauk Highway. Go east and follow signs to Ocean Beaches. Cross Ponquogue Bridge and turn left at the traffic light. Go to end of road to parking lot at inlet.
- Tuesday June 6, 9:00, Lakeland County Park** Directions to Lakeland Park Sunrise Highway to exit 49 Lakeland Ave north to Ronkonkoma, continue North on Ocean Ave. until cross RR tracks then make left on Johnson Ave then 1.7 to park entrance

### Weekend Nature Walks

- Sunday May 7, 7:00 am, Central Park** Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), Steve D'Amato (631-264-8413), Nick Laviola (631-678-7866) Meet at 7 a.m. on Central Park West at 77th Street (opposite the Museum of Natural History).
- Saturday May 13, 7:00 am, Alley Pond Park** Leaders: Mike Cooper (516-523-2369) Steve D'Amato (631-264-8413) Northern State Pkwy to Exit 23, which reads: Cross Island Parkway, Union Turnpike and Alley Pond Park. Go to Union Turnpike (NOT Alley Pond Park). At the signal light, turn right onto Union Turnpike. Proceed to the next signal light which is Springfield Blvd and turn right. Go about 4 blocks to 76th Ave. Turn right onto 76th Ave. and proceed to Alley Pond Parking lot on your left.
- Sunday May 14, 8:00 am, Connetquot River SPP, Birding & Breakfast** Leaders Bob & Edith Wilson, Ken Thompson, Helga Merryman. Continental breakfast hosted by Friends of Connetquot. Reservations required - call Connetquot River State Park Preserve at 581-1072 to register. Registration fee \$4. plus \$8 parking fee per car - unless you have yearly Empire pass.
- Sat & Sun, May 20 & 21, 7:00 am, Sterling Forest and Bashakill** Leader: John Gluth (631-827-0120) From Tappan Zee Bridge, take I-87 to Sloatsburg exit 15A, take the exit for Rte 72 (Sterling Mine Rd.), 1- mile up Rte 17. Continue west on Rte 72 for 3 Miles until you reach Rte 84, Long Meadow Rd. Continue up long Meadow Rd to Sterling Lake Rd (4 Mi). Turn left and continue to Park Visitors Center parking lot on Old Forge Rd. Overnight at Wurtsboro Days Inn (845-888 2727).



*Last year Sterling Forest and Bashakill Trip attendees, above, enjoyed some great sightings including immature Saw-whet Owls and Red Fox kits playing in a meadow.*



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Easy Way to Support Our Chapter

Our Cash for Causes fundraiser continues as we add a \$25 gift card, along with the \$50 cards. This is a "risk free, have to eat anyway" fundraiser. We hope that more people will support this activity. Mail a check made payable to Great South Bay Audubon Society (GSBAS) to Annette Brownell at 1411 Saxon Ave., Bay Shore NY 11706, along with a stamped, self addressed envelope. Cards will be available at the June outdoor program also.



## Brookside Butterfly Garden Club

by Janet Gremler, Chairperson

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, members of the Brookside Butterfly Garden Club began the spring clean-up of the garden. After the many windy days of win-



Butterfly Garden Club members Janet Gremler (left) and Helga Merryman

ter there was much debris to be removed. Our usual ritual of raking and hand carrying the leaves and branches from the garden was brought into the 21st century by new member Bill Ronnan. Bill brought along his generator, blower and electric hedge clippers and within a short period of time, had the garden spotless! Helga Merryman and Janet Gremler took time to tidy around the freshly sprouted primula and sedum. A clump of lesser celandine with its shiny yellow flowers, was easily

spotted by new member Gail Black. With her extensive plant knowledge, Gail indicated that this plant was not welcome as it is an invasive species.

The time in the garden was so delightful, with fresh air and sunshine all around. We were thoroughly entertained by many avian friends visiting the feeders. Red and White Nuthatches, kinglets, titmice, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees, many sparrows and a single hawk all took the time pass our way.

A pair of Canada Geese lazily sat on the lawn watching all of our activity in the garden. At the end of our day, we certainly were pleased with our productivity, especially since the garden looked quite rejuvenated.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and helping hands of old and new members alike, our day was a success!

## August Hummingbird Trip

The date for our annual trip to the Baiting Hollow Hummingbird Sanctuary will be announced shortly. Check the website GSBAS.org for the date.

Please keep in mind that this will be a reservation only, **strictly adhered limited number of participants** event. The limit is due to concessions that Paul Adams, the owner, had to make when settling a legal battle with his neighbors. You must contact Annette to make arrangements. email: [nettiesbaskets2@optonline.net](mailto:nettiesbaskets2@optonline.net) or call 631-665-4405.



Garden club member Bill Ronnan trimming hedges

## Next Art Class

Because our first art class was so much fun, we decided to host another class in May, rather than wait until next year. On Saturday, May 20th, board member and former teacher, Jody Banaszak, will share her expertise with us once again. It will be held at Brookside County Park. Space is limited so please contact Jody directly at [crabnose88@yahoo.com](mailto:crabnose88@yahoo.com) to reserve a spot. or leave a message at 631-563-7716.

No one tells this vulture what to do!



Black Vulture photographed at Oak Beach by John Gluth

# CHAPTER NEWS

## March and April General Membership Meetings Recap

Our March meeting was held at Brookside County Park in Sayville. Many attended Bill Ronnan and his friend Bret's presentation. They presented a slide show of all the bird photos they have taken while visiting Brookside County Park. How fitting as it was our first monthly meeting held there!

Their photos were spectacular and represented such a variety of birds! I didn't know there were so many different species found at Brookside. There were Wood Ducks, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, hummingbirds and the usual suspects. Hopefully we can add more flowering and hanging plants in our butterfly garden this summer to attract these and more varieties without any vandals destroying them.

Bill and Bret also volunteered to help attract more birds at Brookside. Thanks guys!

Our April meeting at Brookside County Park featured Terri Laveroni and her assistant Kyle and his Red Macaw, Sammy. Terri has a room full of several different parrots with tropical murals, painted by budding artist Shannon Sullivan, which I had the pleasure of seeing.

As you may know, parrots talk. Terri explained that it is part of their makeup and they mimic what they hear. Sammy, who is a female, didn't speak for us but did move back and forth like Stevie Wonder does when he sings! The only thing she was missing were the sunglasses! Terri also explained how much work it is to have a parrot. They have to be showered every day for at least 20 minutes, of course fed, cage cleaned, spoken to, etc. It's a full time job!!

They could also outlive you. Kyle is young; Sammy is 5 years old: If Kyle sticks with it, he shouldn't have a problem!!

-Jody Banaszak



Sammy perched on Kyle's wrist

## CONSERVATION TIPS

by Diane

### How would you like to make \$45/yr. on a \$10 investment?

The last thing that most people do before they go to work or sleep is turn off the TV. The problem is that when you turn the television off, the cablebox, DVD player, and game console are still using about 20 watts – each. This adds up to \$45\* a year for each auxiliary device. In other words, for the cost of a \$10 power strip you make \$45/yr. per box by turning it off from the power strip. Then the next time you turn it on, it just takes a few minutes to reboot, and you're back in business.

-Diane Ives

## Finding an Injured or Orphaned Bird

With nesting season upon us, there is a chance you may encounter a bird that may have fallen from a nest, or a chick that seems abandoned. The following information may be helpful in these situations.



### Injured Bird

If you find an injured bird, carefully put it in a cardboard box with a lid or a towel over the top, and place in a cool, safe place. Birds go into shock very easily when injured, and often die from the shock. If a

### Orphaned Chick

If you have found an orphaned bird, the first step is to determine if it is really orphaned. When many young birds first fledge and leave the nest, they may still have a little down with short tail and wing feathers. Fledglings often also have weak flight muscles and may be fed for a few days by their parents outside of the nest. This is a very vulnerable time for young birds, as they are easy prey for roaming cats and other predators. It is important to keep fledglings safe and to allow the parents to continue feeding them.

If the bird has fallen out of the nest prematurely, or if a tree was cut down and a nest of young is found, a rehabber may be needed.

bird has hit a window and is still alive, it may just need a little time to regain its senses, then may be able to fly away. Do not try to force feed or give water to the bird. Take the bird outside and open the box every fifteen minutes to see if it is able to fly away.

If it is still alive after a few hours, call a local wildlife rehabilitator. Many belong to NYS Association for Wildlife Rehabilitators, and can be found with an on-line search, or try: <http://wildliferehabber.com>

### Local Wildlife Rehabilitators:

Volunteers for Wildlife 516-674-0982

STAR Foundation 631-736-8207



# CONSERVATION ISSUES

BY BOB GROVER

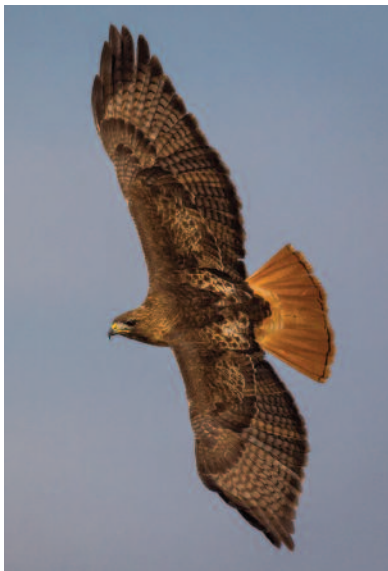
## Government?

We have covered a multitude of topics in this column over the years, but rarely have we strayed into the arena of government and politics. Frankly, it is an area in which I am not comfortable. But everyone needs to vent now and then, so following are some observations about recent presidential appointments and budget decisions.

We have a new Interior Secretary. The Department of Interior is in charge of many of our natural resources, including the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the Endangered Species Act. The new secretary is Ryan Zinke, an avid hunter. One of his first acts was to suspend the rule prohibiting the use of lead shot. Many hunted game animals are never recovered by their hunters. These dead or wounded individuals are typically scavenged, often by the likes of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. Ingesting even a single lead shot pellet is usually fatal to an eagle or a hawk. Nice job safeguarding our nation's wildlife, Secretary Zinke. Where is Teddy Roosevelt when you need him?

The new head of the EPA is Scott Pruitt. Mr. Pruitt is determined to eviscerate the regulatory framework in place to protect wetlands. These rules have been in place since the passage of the landmark Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. They have been responsible for preventing the filling and destruction of untold acres of wetlands. Apparently, Mr. Pruitt thinks they are unnecessary. Oye!

The Department of Energy is now being run by Rick Perry. Has gone on the record in past years advocating for the department's elimination. Here, on Long Island, we are fortunate to have an undisputed world-leading research institution in the Brookhaven National Laboratory. Brookhaven is one of several critical national laboratories under the direction of the Department of Energy. Collec-



*Who will protect our birds of prey such as this Red-tailed Hawk?*

tively, they have made important discoveries in a range of disciplines from quantum mechanics to viruses, and they boast multiple Nobel laureates. I have heard that Mr. Perry was totally unaware that his new department even did this kind of work. There have been some subtle indications that Mr. Perry is climbing the learning curve and that he has been impressed to learn of some of the important work going on at Brookhaven and other facilities. Maybe there is some hope for the Energy Department. Fingers crossed.

Somebody needs to introduce our new President to a globe. Yes, that's right, a globe. A basic lesson in earth science might be helpful. "So you see, Mr. President, the earth really is not flat". And while we're at it, Mr. President, no, your great grandfather didn't really walk the earth with dinosaurs. And finally, Mr. President, it really is getting hotter outside. Which brings us to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The President has decided, in his great wisdom, to cut the funding for NASA's climate research. NASA maintains a network of earth-orbiting satellites that continually monitor the temperature of the atmosphere and oceans, cloud formation, and sea level, among other parameters. The physical science generated by this program allows us to understand the complex workings not only of the fluid portions of our world, the atmosphere and oceans, but the living portion, for processes such as carbon storage. Other related earth science missions are set for the chopping block, as well. Of course, these cuts are under the guise of cost savings, but targeting climate science programs, that collectively amount to only about five percent of NASA's budget, makes one wonder if they simply fear the science they generate.

Can't someone manage to sneak a globe into the oval office? Just imagine it, "what is that round thing on my desk?"

## Are Neonics in Your Garden? *from front page*

to review some of the neonic chemicals in 2018-2019. One state, Maryland, has totally banned all use of neonicotinoids, effective beginning 2018. A few neonic chemicals are now restricted from use on Long Island.

Through a major campaign effort by many environmental organizations and rising public pressure, some garden retailers are phasing out neonicotinoids and requiring labeling of neonic-treated plants, but these pesticides can still be found.

To avoid neonics in your garden:

- 1) check specific garden products for neonic pesticides by contacting the Customer Information Service listed on the product package, or contact the NYS DEC pesticide division, or go online for listings of all chemical names, manufacturers, trademark and product names.
- 2) ask your garden center if plants they sell are treated with any type of neonic insecticide.
- 3) safely dispose of neonic chemicals you may already have at a local hazardous waste recycling center.

# BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

Compiled by Helga Merryman



As our last survey period came to an end, March was determined to hold on to winter, and as I write this, April is not behaving any better. A short pause between seasons gives us a chance to sit back and give thought to our gardens. What can we do to attract and support wildlife? Think of planting Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies and Parsley for Black Swallowtails. Choose red flowers with tubular shapes such as Bee Balm, Cardinal flower or Columbine to attract hummingbirds with their nectar. Sunflowers that are native, Echinacea, and other coneflowers are a few of many plants which develop seeds that attract songbirds, especially goldfinches at the end of summer. If you have space, think of planting berry bearing bushes that ripen at alternating times to attract robins, mockingbirds and Cedar Waxwings to name a few. It is important to supply fresh water, anything as simple as a birdbath or as complex as a pond with a waterfall will be appreciated. Sometimes I just put a pan of water out on my deck and the squirrels seem to come out of nowhere to get a drink. A small brush pile is great for shelter and security. With the habitat of so many creatures being decimated, anything we can do to support our local wildlife is important, even if it's just one flowerpot with a native plant. I talk to so many people who ask me why, when they were young it was common to find toads and snakes in their backyards, and where are they now? The use of pesticides and weed killers has surely been a detriment to these creatures. If you see a leaf that has been chewed in your garden, before you reach for the pesticide realize that some creature was able to get sustenance from that leaf (maybe a caterpillar that will become a beautiful butterfly). We have to decide what is more important in the scheme of things: living with a dandelion in the lawn or poisoning our earth.

For the last survey period we had a total of 10 participants: Banaszak, Cafarelli, Fogarty, Horman, Kremer-Parrott, McNeil, Merryman, Puglielli, Unterschuetz and Wilson. Eight areas were represented, Babylon, Bayport, Bluepoint, Deer Park, Lindenhurst, Ridge, West Islip and West Sayville. Thank you to everyone who participated and I look forward to all newcomers. For information on joining the survey please refer to the September/October *Sandpiper*.

## How Does the Survey Work?

- 1) The counting period is 5 months from November to March. You may choose to participate for only one month, several months or the full period of five months.
- 2) During the first 15 days of each month, keep your feeders filled. Whenever you view your feeders, count the number of each individual bird species you observe. Report the largest number of each individual species seen at any one time, e.g., if you see 10 Cardinals on the 1st, 5 on the 2nd, and 3 on the 3rd - report the largest number observed, i.e., 10. These birds can actually be at your feeder or attracted to your yard by the feeding activity.
- 3) Make five (5) copies of the form printed in the September/October issues of *The Sandpiper*. Use one form per month to record the largest number of individuals of any species that you see at one time.
- 4) No later than the 19th of each survey month, mail your completed form to Helga Merryman, 38 South Carll Ave, Babylon, NY, 11702. You can also email your sightings and photos to me at eider55owl@optonline.net. Please put FEEDER SURVEY in the subject line. I will compile the information and the results will be published in the following issue of *The Sandpiper*.

## Survey Data: Period from February 1-15 2017 / March 1- 15 2017

Red-tailed Hawk 1/0  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2/4  
 Cooper's hawk 2/ 3  
 Rock pigeon 11/14  
 Mourning Dove 107/67  
 Monk Parakeet 15/9  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 10/11  
 Downy Woodpecker 20/19  
 Hairy Woodpecker 4/ 2  
 Northern Flicker 4/3  
 Blue Jay 35/23  
 American Crow 17/23  
 Black-capped Chickadee 18/21  
 Tufted Titmouse 4/8  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 4/3  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 15/13

Carolina Wren 12/11  
 American Robin 18/36  
 European Starling 117/ 258+  
 Northern Mockingbird 4/9  
 Fox Sparrow 0/4  
 Song Sparrow 15/22  
 White-throated Sparrow 49/40  
 Dark-eyed Junco 43/43  
 Northern Cardinal 31/30  
 Red-winged Blackbird 45/100  
 Common Grackle 17/251+  
 Brown-headed Cowbird 1/19  
 House Finch 56/50  
 American Goldfinch 13/20  
 House Sparrow 111+/92

### OTHER SPECIES

Great Blue Heron 3/1  
 Ring-billed Gull 20/0  
 Herring Gull 10/0  
 Mallards 69/30  
 Screech Owl 0/1  
 Kingfisher 1/1  
 Cedar Waxwings 0/32  
 Yellow Warbler 1/1  
 Purple Finch 2/0  
 Boat-tailed Grackle 0/1

### SEEN ON BAY NEAR HOMES of PARTICIPANT'S

Hooded Mergansers 9/0  
 Buffleheads 6/0  
 Scaup (Greater?) Thousands/Thousands

# Great South Bay Audubon Society

## Officers

President: (Position Pending)  
Vice-president: (Position Pending)  
Treasurer: Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405  
Corresponding Secretary:  
Tim Meyer (631) 346-0198  
Recording Secretary: Nicholas Laviola (631) 678-7866

## Board of Directors

Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059  
Steve D'Amato (631) 264-8413  
Jack Isaacs (631) 567-7631  
Nicholas Laviola (631) 678-7866  
Peggy Marsh (631) 667-3556  
Tim Meyer (631) 346-0198  
Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731

## Committee Chairs

Brookside: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969  
Hospitality: open  
Conservation: Maria Brown  
Membership: Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731  
Publicity: Helga Merryman (631) 669-6473  
Education: Juliane Wohler, Janet Gremli,  
Jack Finkenberg  
Audubon Activist: Open  
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Nature Walks: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028  
Programs: Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059  
Librarian: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969  
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Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405  
Mailing: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028  
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Answering the GSBAS Direct Phone:  
Steve D'Amato  
GSBAS Direct Phone Number (631) 563-7716  
GSBAS Email address: info@gsbas.org

**For wildlife in need of rescue please call The STAR  
Foundation (631) 736-8207**

Great South Bay Audubon website

GSBAS.org



Great South Bay Audubon Society  
PO Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782  
A Chapter of National Audubon



## Great South Bay Audubon Society Membership

Become a member of Great South Bay Audubon Society.  
Your contribution will support GSBAS conservation efforts, educational programs and our stewardship at Brookside County Park.

Please make checks payable to:  
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- New Membership \$20     New Membership Senior (62+) \$15  
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## Welcome New Members!

**GSBAS would like to welcome our new members.  
We're sincerely glad to have you and look forward  
to seeing you at our events and programs.**

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