



The Sandpiper

Great South Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

ECO-FOCUS:

Traditional Wind Energy and the Environment A Concern for Our Planet's Future

by Gail Marquardt Black

A common misconception today is that wind energy development is a benign "green" energy solution to climate change--a safe means of generating electricity--and that it has no appreciable environmental or ecological impact. However, industrial wind energy definitely does negatively affect existing animal life, as well as cause habitat disturbance and destruction---whether built on land or offshore.

This expanding industry requires mandatory regulation; careful siting; construction and operation mitigation; monitoring and effective re-dress/compensation for violations, in order to reduce its environmental impacts. Unfortunately, these necessary controls are not being implemented.

Traditional wind turbines are monolithic and environmentally intrusive: towers can reach well over 430 feet high, topped with blades--each over 150+ feet long---which create a 1.5+ acre sweep. Exposed revolving blades (usually three) can move air at least 175 miles an hour, producing tornado-like vortexes. Transport and

equipment needed to assemble a wind power facility composed of these turbines, commonly called wind farms, can cause extensive habitat destruction. In addition to noise, vibration and lighting from wind turbine operation, the high voltage electrical structures restrict safe access around them. With a 20-25 year lifespan, wind facilities also pose significant future problems with waste recycling as they age and necessitate decommissioning.

Over 50,000 commercial scale wind turbines were recorded operating in the US at 2016's end, with tens of thousands more now either under construction or being planned. Wind turbine blades kill hundreds of thousands of birds and close to one million bats yearly in the US; this number escalates with each new one built. By 2030 they are projected to annually kill almost 1½ million birds conservatively. As tower heights have invaded prime bird flying space, bird kills have increased. Associated infrastructure needed for energy transport (power lines/support structures) additionally cause substantial numbers of bird fatalities.

Birds are affected either by direct wind turbine blade collision or by indirect impact from noise, light and habitat disruption or destruction. Especially vulnerable include night-migrating songbirds, raptors and grassland birds. At great risk are endangered and threatened bird species whose populations can be dramatically impacted by small number depletions. Seasonal migrations also increase bird deaths. Bats can succumb to barotrauma, air pressure change from spinning blades



Current US Fish and Wildlife regulations allow '30 year take permits' to wind energy companies, protecting them from prosecution if their activities harm eagles, such as the federally protected Golden Eagle.

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.

*Meeting Location:
Seatuck Environmental Association
at the Scully Estate in Islip
See page 3 for address and directions*

Thursday, March 15, 2018 Integrated Marsh Management: It's for the Birds

Dominick Ninivaggi

The Integrated Marsh Management (IMM) project at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley is a project that was designed to rehabilitate 80 acres of ditched salt marsh for multiple objectives, combining improved management of the marsh habitat, reduced mosquito production, reduction in the invasive Phragmites, and increased shorebird and waterfowl populations. Dominick Ninivaggi retired from Suffolk County after 22 years as Superintendent of Vector Control. Prior to that, he worked for N.Y. State DEC as its Tidal Wetlands Manager and as an oceanographer for the Army Corps of Engineers. He has worked in a wide variety of environmental settings ranging from the Bering Sea to the Caribbean.

Thursday, April 19, 2018 Photographing Nature with Bob Labuski

Photographer Bob Labuski will discuss how photography can deepen the understanding and connection to nature and enjoyment of the outdoors. He will discuss photography techniques and tips on capturing great shots. Bob will also be showing us some of his beautiful photographs.

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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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vlvcap@yahoo.com



The Larry Merryman Memorial Library

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



Please Note our New
Meeting Location!
See page 3 for details

President's Message by Jody Banaszak

Hello my little birding friends! I hope this weather finds you nice and warm and enjoying all the birds in your yard and elsewhere. For some reason I haven't gotten any birds on my thistle feeder compared to other years. I did get to see the snowy owl on our last nature walk. He just flew in as we were looking for him and landed not too far away. I guess he knew we wanted to get a good look at him!! Of course I left my camera in the car. Usually the snowy is too far for me to get a good shot with my lens. This time he was really close and I could have gotten a great shot!! And, embarrassing to say, upon returning to the car to use my camera for the next stop, I realized that I left the charger for my camera home in the kitchen. You can bet I won't do that again.



photo by Ken Thompson

Attendees on the chapter's February 4 Jones Beach nature walk were treated to the sighting of a Snowy Owl just hanging out on the dunes.

We have had our first education meeting at Brookside in January. Six people attended and we tossed around some good ideas, one being a four week photography class for young adults and a four week class for birding and conservation (both on Saturdays). If anyone would like to help with these classes, please let me know. You would teach one class a month, not taking up all of your Saturdays!! We know they are precious.

Brookside is also getting a makeover. Annette Brownell sewed curtains with a pretty bird pattern to match the freshly-painted walls. I plan on painting a mural on opposite walls; one a beach scene with a snowy owl and shore birds. The other a woodland scene with trees, owls and woodpeckers. I donated an entertainment center to display nature "finds". Rick Barns made and installed a metal railing for the stairs going to the second floor.

GSBAS has joined the fight against proposed legislation in Congress that would change the interpretation of the The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of our nation's oldest wildlife conservation laws enacted in 1918. If legislation passes, it would remove penalties for violating the law and eliminate many of the protections it now holds. We are proud to join in this fight to save our birds.

Enjoy the rest of your winter. Spring is just around the corner!

We've Got Your Number. Or Have We? by Harry Anderson

It was recently estimated that for every person on earth there are 17 million flies. How that number was arrived at is marvelous in itself, but why not accept it as you watch them swarm over your picnic lunch. Moving from that calculation to determine how many actual flies there are in the world destroys the imagination. Their order alone, Diptera, boasts 1,000,000 species.

Numbers in nature are staggering. Those who know these things say that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on the entire planet. To get that nice tan, or melanoma, those rays from the sun take over 8 minutes to reach you - actually, rather fast, since they travel 92,955,828 miles to get here.

A recently discovered black hole in space is 800 million times larger than our sun. The bright object in its center is a quasar, and it took 13 billion years for its light to reach earth.

Fibonacci, the 13th century math genius, invented his famous sequence to calculate the growth of rabbit populations since they reproduce like, well, rabbits. More huge numbers that can go on past infinity to wherever that is.

The water in the Great Lakes equals 5,439 cubic miles. The Atlantic Ocean covers 20% of the earth's surface, while the Pacific's surface area is larger than all of the earth's surface area combined. We are essentially an aqueous planet.

The number of tree species we know about is over 100,000. The actual number of trees on earth is simply incalculable. Insect species to date top off at 10 million species and, like trees, their total number cannot be counted.

There are 327 million of us here, and there are 7.5 billion people on the earth at last counting, and almost 5 billion live in Asia. But then there is you - just one.



Great South Bay Audubon Society Activities

Please Note
Location Change

General Membership Meetings and Programs

All General Membership Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month (except for May, July and August). Join us at 7:00 pm for pre-program refreshments and casual conversation. Our bird experts will be on hand to field your questions, discuss equipment and share their favorite birding spots.

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR MEETINGS: Seatuck Environmental Association located at the Scully Estate, 550 South Bay Avenue, Islip NY 11751. **Directions:** Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27) to Exit 45 (Rte. 111/Islip/Smithtown), Follow signs to Rte. 111 South toward Islip. Rte. 111 ends at Main St. (Rte. 27A). Turn right onto Main St. (Rte. 27A). Turn left at first traffic light onto South Bay Ave. The entrance to the Environmental Center is almost exactly one mile south of Main St. on the right.

Louise Titus Memorial Tuesday Walks

Tuesday March 20, 9:30 am, Sunken Meadow SP • Meet in the main parking lot in front of the main pavilion near the traffic circle.

Tuesday Mar 27, 9:30 am, Heckscher SP • Meet in Field 5 western end

Tuesday Apr 03, 9:30 am, Jones Beach State Park West End • Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near the Coast Guard Station.

Tuesday April 10, 9:30 am, Robert Moses SP • Meet in Field 5 at the northeast corner

Tuesday April 17, 9:00 am, Gardiners Park

Tuesday April 24, 9:00 am, Norman J Levy Park & Jones Beach WE • Southern State Pkwy. to Meadowbrook Pkwy. south to Merrick Road (27A). Go east on Merrick Road approximately 1/8 mile and turn right into the Norman J. Levy Park.

Tuesday May 1, 9:00 am, 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 8, 9:30 am, Belmont SP • Exit 38 off the Southern State Pkwy. Meet in the parking lot on the east side of the lake.

Weekend Nature Walks

See Website for full list of 2018 Weekend Nature Walks

Saturday March 3, 8:30, Bob Laskowski Memorial Duck Walk • Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536)

Meet at Brookwood Hall, Islip Town Park in East Islip on Irish Lane between Montauk Hwy and Union Blvd.

Saturday April 21 8:30 am, Connetquot River SPP Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028, John Gluth (631-827-0120) Meet in parking field. Entrance is on the westbound side of Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27) west of Pond Road. If coming from west to east, Take exit 47A and go to the next overpass, Oakdale Bohemia Rd. to cross over bridge, then head westbound and stay in right lane to entrance.

Saturday April 28, 8:00 am, Valley Stream SP & Jones Beach West End Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Southern State Parkway to exit 155, North Corona Ave. No Corona Ave to Hendrickson Ave (.07 mi) turn right at Hendrickson Ave. Hendrickson Ave. to Fletcher Ave (.3 mi) turn right on Fletcher Ave. Fletcher Ave North to Valley Stream State Park entrance on right (.2 mi). Park at far end of lot.

Sunday May 6, 7:00 am, Central Park Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), 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 12, 7:00 am, Alley Pond Park Leader: Mike Cooper (516-523-2369)

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 13, Connetquot River SPP, 8:00 am Birding & Breakfast Leaders: Bob & Edith Wilson, Ken Thompson Helga Mer-ryman, Jack Carlson 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 19 & 20, 7:00 am, Sterling Forest and Bashakill Leaders: 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 Visitors Center parking lot on Old Forge Rd. Overnight at Wurtsboro Days Inn (845-888-8727)

Young Naturalists Club

Meets first Sunday of the month at 1:15pm, Brookside County Park, 59 Brook St. Sayville

The Young Naturalists Club focuses on learning about nature and stewardship of a natural area. Outdoor activities include craft- ing nature boxes and pinecone feeders, nature scavenger hunts, hiking the trails, gardening, and maintaining bird-feeding sta- tions. Indoor activities include examining birds' nests and feather displays and special presentations. For details on upcoming Young Naturalists Club activities, please email info@gsbas.org or call 631-581-1731, or visit our website: www.gsbas.org. Registra- tion is not required but recommended. Program is free, but donations or joining GSBAS is encouraged.

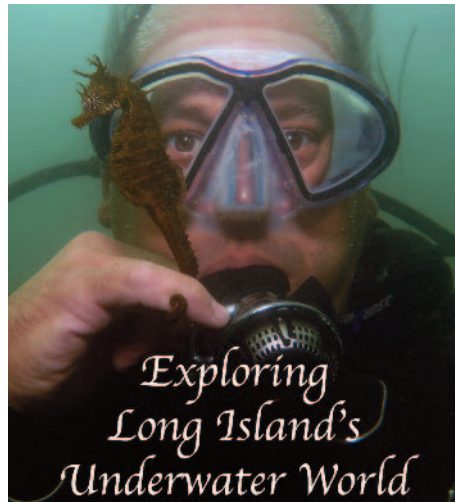
CHAPTER NEWS

May Dinner

We will be hosting our annual dinner meeting/fundraiser on Monday, May 7, 2018 at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore. An exciting program is planned with Chris Paparo as our speaker and Steve D'Amato's original painting of a Swamp Sparrow, along with fun raffle prizes. Watch for your invitation in the mail in mid-March.

As always, we are happy to accept donations of prizes, as well as other organizational help in preparing for the dinner, whether it be coordinating prizes or helping with set up/clean up the day of the dinner. Please contact Annette Brownell at nettiesbaskets2@optonline.net if you are interested in helping or donating.

Our program for the evening will be "Exploring Long Island's Underwater World" - Follow Chris Paparo, aka the "Fish Guy," on an underwater tour of LI. Enjoy amazing photographs and videos of local fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and other assorted invertebrates while learning interesting facts about those creatures that you might encounter on a



(fishing trip or a stroll down the beach.

Born and raised on Long Island, Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the Island for over 30 years. As a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer, he enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing and the outdoors led him to obtain a BS in Marine Science from LIU/Southampton, and he currently manages the new Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University.

An award-winning author, Paparo writes for several outdoor publications. You can follow his adventures on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vimeo and YouTube at [@fishguyphotos](https://www.instagram.com/fishguyphotos) or by visiting his website at fishguyphotos.com.

Stop and Shop Fundraiser

Our Cash for Causes fundraiser contin-

ues 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 and the cards will be mailed to you.



Art Class with Jody

Our February acrylic painting class was another success! This time we had a few more Chapter members, with 11 people in all. The bird of choice was a male Snow Bunting. Snow Buntings are beautiful birds. The male has brownish yellow, white, black and dark brown feathers in the winter. They molt in late summer into the brown and white "winter" plumage, and the tips of those feathers wear away so by late winter the black and white plumage is revealed. This is unlike most species, who have another molt into breeding plumage.

Everyone did a wonderful job painting. And, of course, we had a lot of laughs. We will have another painting class on March 24th. The bird of choice will be a Blue Jay. Please register a week or two before the class starts as there is limited space. The fee is \$15 with all supplies provided. I give step by step instructions and help you along the way. Thanks to all who attended the last class!

Jody: crabnose88@yahoo.com

CONSERVATION TIPS

by Diane

Join a CSA

CSA stands for Community Supported Agricultural. Members pay \$500-600 a year for a share to hire a farmer. The land may be public land such as Restoration Farm in Bethpage that uses Nassau county land or H.O.G. Farm that's on town of Brookhaven property: Or it might be owned by a nonprofit such as Homecoming Farm at Sisters of St. Dominic in Amityville. Green thumb and Golden Earthworm farms are on organic farms. Each week from June-October members pick up vegetables that are local, non-GMO and grown without chemicals but restore the land with compost and mulch. You can have a say in what is grown and have a variety of vegetables not found in the supermarket. Some even have bees which improve yields and you get honey too!



Students displaying their amazing renderings of a Snow Bunting.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Birding: Florida's Treasure Coast

by former GSBAS President Alice Heller

All at GSBAS: Happy New Year! I'm finally able to report on some of my Port Saint Lucie 2017 Treasure Coast bird sightings.

Back on 04/09/17, I was treated to a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites. Weather conditions were windy, 80 degrees, clear and sunny day; a single kite was again seen on 04/14/17 – with almost exact weather conditions. Also being seen regularly: 04/14/17 is American Bald Eagle in flight, clearly identifiable with his white head and white rear tail feathers. Comically on 04/13/17 on US-1 heading south, while sitting at a stop light, I witnessed a crow dive bombing an eagle perched on a massive steel electric pole. The eagle's sheer size made the crow look diminutive. The eagle is usually seen singularly in flight above kettling Turkey and Black Vultures. My community, Savanna Club, is first and foremost famous for its Sandhill Cranes, who mosey from yard to yard, stopping traffic when they cross Savanna Blvd., usually in pairs, and occasionally can be seen eating the fallen seed from people's bird feeders. Earlier in the spring of 2017, I was fortunate to witness the Sandhill Crane's mating dance. On Savanna Blvd., surrounded by lakes on both sides, I noticed several cars ahead of me pulled over to the shoulder and I joined them to watch this timeless/graceful mating dance of these majestic cranes. I've been treated to lots of Woodstorks and several Roseate Spoonbill also at a portion of the Savanna Preserve's wetlands, before it eventually dried up and the birds disappeared. Seen in these wetlands are Glossy and White Ibis, Limpkins, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Anhinga, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Yellowlegs, American Coot, Killdeer, and Common Gallinule, in addition to Cattle Egrets.

Seen in flight everyday are the Turkey and Black Vultures. Spring brings the arrival of the Osprey which are also seen and heard fishing.



It's not unusual to see Sandhill Cranes strolling along yards and cemeteries in many parts of Florida including the Treasure Coast.

And I'm happy to report that the Treasure Coast has a very healthy American Kestrel population.

First heard and then sighted, was a Loggerhead Shrike. It was sitting on the very top of my neighbor's beautiful and large magnolia tree!

The end of Jan/Feb. the Eastern Screech-Owl was heard. Also heard and seen was a Great Horned Owl perched on my neighbor's cypress tree. It was magical being out in the quiet night– the sky so clear– and hearing the Great Horned Owl. My neighbor said there are usually two of them calling back and forth, answering each other's calls.

Other bird suspects seen here are: Belted Kingfisher; Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Black -and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, House Sparrow and several starlings, but nowhere numbering the population on Long Island. There are Brown Thrashers and many many mockingbirds! I am surprised at the mocker's numbers.

An odd sighting was of an Egyptian Goose, which I first saw on 12/19/16 and then again on 01/10/17. A group of three very handsome geese, showing off their pink legs, brown chest patch, brown eye rings, and of medium size, were taking shelter under a miniature oak tree on Savanna Blvd. near one of the lakes.

The Treasure Coast experienced a drought last spring through fall. The portion of the Savanna Wetland Preserve in my community had completely dried up. Of course all of the many egrets, storks, cranes, spoonbills, killdeer, yellowlegs, teals, ducks, coots and moorhens deserted for better habitat! I'm happy to report that the Wetlands are once again teaming with all the birds. Alas I'm still waiting to see a Painted Bunting, Scrub Jay and Pink Flamingo as life birds. Sadly I've not seen our Ruby-throated Hummingbird, although my neighbor assures me that she has had them visit her garden.

This year I'm hoping to attend Port Saint Lucie's Audubon group for its monthly meetings and birding field trips and also hope to have my own laptop/desk top computer up and functioning with word processing. Cheers, best wishes and good birding to all in 2018!

--Alice reporting from Florida's Treasure Coast

Importance of Native Planting, Part II*

If you are like me, this is the time of year that you begin to pour through the gardening catalogs that flood our mailboxes. My garden has flowers all season, pollinator plants and plants that generate both shelter and food for birds. But I still study these catalogs and invariably buy something – mostly because I want everything.

In the last issue of the newsletter we discussed native trees. Now we will look at flowering plants. Grasses will be discussed in the next issue.

Goldenrod – generally invasive but excellent for wildlife. They generate lots of insect protein for birds and the blooms attract many different pollinators. Seeds are also eaten by birds and small mammals. Some varieties are non-invasive and for shadier areas. Others can be kept in control by planting in a bottomless container with the lip above the soil line. 2'-4', sun to part shade.

Aster – Great source of nectar for late summer; good seed source for finches and other small songbirds; insect larval food source. 2'-5', full sun

Purple Coneflower – late summer bloomer with cone shaped seed heads that Goldfinch love; flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators. Leaves are host to several insects. 18" – 4', sun to part shade.

Sunflower – bees and butterflies enjoy them and then they produce-

seeds that the birds love. Easy to grow annuals – make sure you plant old fashioned, not new sterile cultivars. 3' – 12'

Pyeweed – white to lilac fuzzy topped clusters that bees and other beneficial insects love, leaves are used by insects; in winter chickadees and woodpeckers pick at the hollow stems looking for insects 18" – 6'; sun to part shade.

Black-eyed Susan – attract insects to their leaves and birds to their seeds. Good for rain gardens. 1'-6', sun to part shade

Tickseeds (coreopsis, verticillata and grandiglora) – long blooming yellow, orange and red daisy like blooms; beneficial insects

and birds love the flowers and seeds. 8" – 24" sun to part shade.

Bee Balm – Monarda – aromatic leaves and tubular blooms that hummingbirds and bees love, but deer don't. 3'-4', full sun.

Milkweed & Butterfly weed – very fragrant and extremely important to Monarch butterflies, pollinators nectar on the blooms. Several varieties, some can be invasive.

Blazing Star – Liatris – purple spikes of bloom attract bees and other insects. Birds enjoy the seeds and stalks attract woodpeckers and other insect eater in fall and winter. 2'-4'.

**Part I appeared in Jan/Feb 2018 issue*

**One big secret to gardening for the birds:
Don't cut plants back before spring. Let the
birds enjoy the harvest all winter.**

Traditional Wind Energy and the Environment *continued from Page 1*

that internally injure and ultimately kill them. Long-lived and having low reproductive rates, bats are significantly threatened and may be susceptible to local extinction.

The killing of birds and bats as an unavoidable and unlimited expendable resource in wind energy use is an environmental issue of major concern, putting their future survival at risk. Birds and bats are irreplaceable and an absolute necessity for environmental balance in our world, performing vital ecological functions (pest control, seed dispersal, pollination). Two essential wind turbine mitigation methods considered partially successful in lowering bird and bat deaths—siting and curtailment—are not working. Safe siting (locating wind energy facilities away from large bird concentrations, migratory flight routes, key nesting areas, wetlands, etc.) is not legally required. Wind farms now exist in major bird risk-prone areas with devastating bird-kills reported—and many are still being proposed in other US bird-sensitive areas. Curtailment (slowing or stopping turbine blade movement when birds approach), done through radar detection or camera, is expensive and seldom implemented.

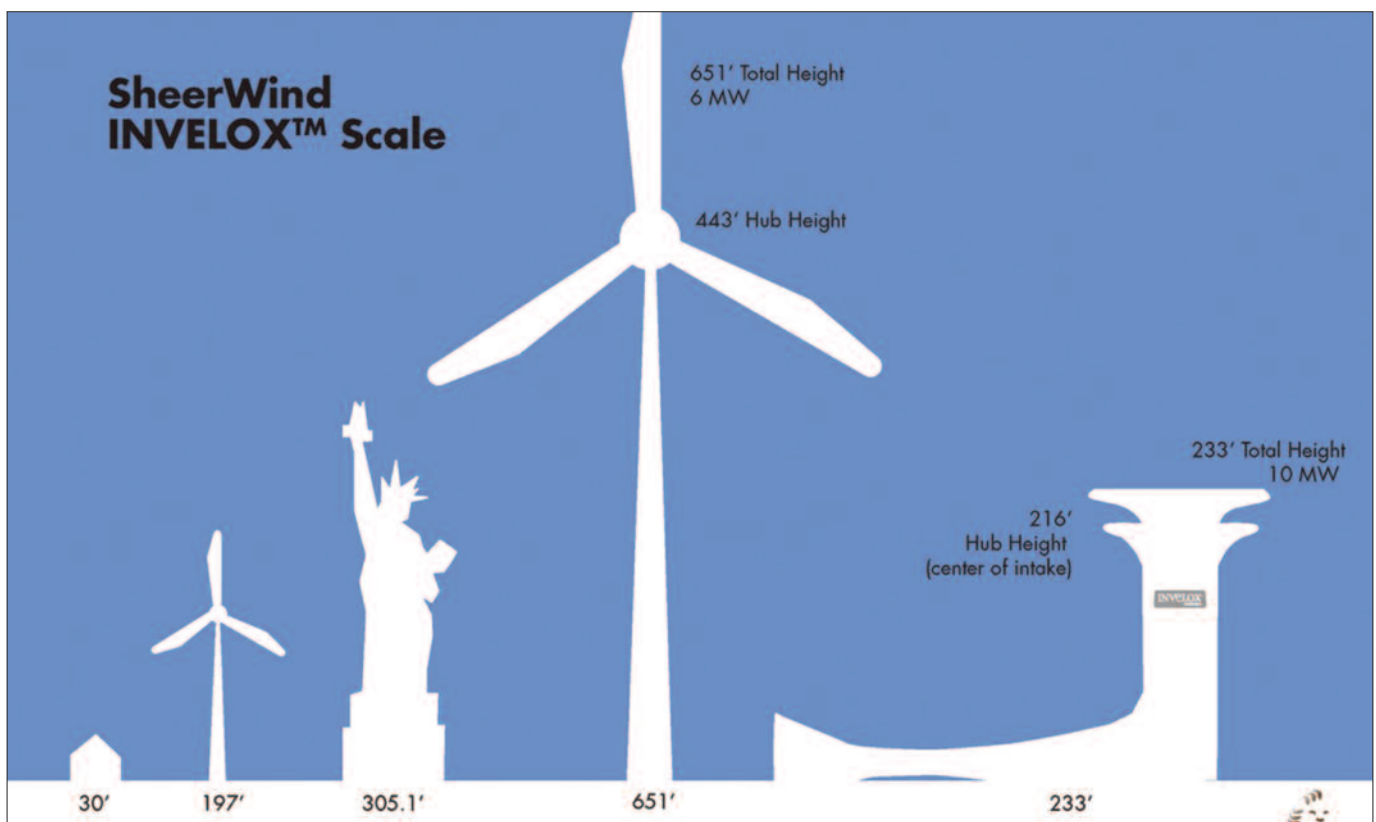
With no federal accountability required, wind energy companies lack incentives to address and modify environmental problems regarding bird and bat deaths or habitat impact. Three national laws designed to protect birds and bats—the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act—are rarely enforced with this industry. In the absence of mandatory federal regu-

lation, wind energy companies can hire their own consultants to prepare reports on all phases for proposed wind turbines, as well as on actual bird-kill monitoring . . . a definite conflict of interest. Industry bird-kill data can be restricted from public access. State and local wind energy controls also vary dramatically. It is quite apparent that government environmental protection regulations currently trail far behind actual industry growth.

Development and testing of alternative wind energy technology less harmful to birds and bats and less environmentally intrusive in design is advancing. SheerWind, a Minnesota firm, has developed an innovative design, Invelox, that can create wind energy, even when located in areas with low airflow. Producing 2½ to 3 times as much energy as one traditional turbine, its funnel-like structure has no exterior rotating components and its netted opening prevents bird, bat and other animal entry. Currently in use at three US locations, more are now being built for sites abroad.

There is a pressing need for innovation in wind power design to assure wildlife population sustainability and protection of our increasingly fragile ecosystem. Traditional bladed wind turbines have raised many unsettling questions. The future solution for renewable energy needs to be in a form that avoids possible irreversible environmental harm to our planet.

Find more information on-line regarding this subject : <https://abcbirds.org/program/wind-energy-and-birds/learn-more/>



The relative size of one conventional industrial wind turbine is compared to a house structure, a small wind turbine, the Statue of Liberty and an innovative wind turbine design (SheerWind's Invelox): it reflects the environmentally intrusive and deadly design of conventional industrial wind energy in use today and the need for alternative technology.



BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Compiled by Helga Merryman
December 2017 - January 2018



On one of the bitter cold days we experienced this year I observed a tiny Carolina Wren clinging to a bird feeder, bringing up the question: Why wasn't this little bit of fluff frozen solid when a short while earlier I had frozen fingers after the few minutes it took to fill the feeders? It is surprising to know that birds are well equipped to survive the coldest of temperatures. During the short days of winter they store fat to keep themselves warm during the long nights. During those freezing nights, they fluff their feathers to trap heat (think of sleeping under a down comforter- how cozy). Chickadees and Kinglets are among a group of birds that have the ability to conserve energy by slowing their metabolism in what is called regulated hypothermia. According to what I have read, bird's feet don't freeze because they have a complex network of veins and arteries that serve to exchange warm and cold blood so the blood that circulates into their feet is already cooled and will not give off needed heat. In addition, they have very little flesh on their feet that requires warming. At night many seek shelter in various places, usually depending on their lifestyles. As an example: woodpeckers and chickadees may seek a cavity in a dead tree to roost, juncos and other ground feeders may huddle under a brush pile and House Finches may roost in dense coniferous trees. Let's not forget the value of sharing body heat; I read of a group of male bluebirds that were discovered jammed together in an old birdhouse keeping warm.

One of our contributors who lives by the water in Bayport was surprised in December to see a Snowy Owl perched on her roof, (I'm going to check my roof more often!). I've had a Hermit Thrush for the last two months. Their usual diet is berries and insects but it just hangs out under the feeders and eats whatever falls to the ground. I've put some suet on the ground in hopes of giving it some high calorie food.

For our last feeder survey we had a total of 10 participants: Welcome to newcomers. The following 8 areas were covered: Babylon, Bayport, Bluepoint, Brightwaters, Deer Park, Ridge, West Islip and West Sayville. I also received a survey from Linda and Bob Puglielli who recently moved to Delaware. They have such wonderful sightings such as Pileated Woodpeckers and Great Horned Owls on their property. Thank you all who participated and I look forward to future surveys.

The GSBAS Feeder Survey has been run for many years. The reward of the survey is to bring awareness of nature to our doorstep and share our observations with others. Anyone is welcome to join the survey at any time during the counting period from November to March.

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, 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 issue 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 Carlil 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 December 1 2017, and January 1 2018 - January 15, 2018

Red-tailed Hawk 0/0	American Crow 3/16	Song Sparrow 30/34	Mute Swan 0/1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2/2	Black-capped Chickadee 21/28	White-throated Sparrow 30/26	Great Blue Heron 2/1
Cooper's hawk 3/3	Tufted Titmouse 6/5__	Dark-eyed Junco 18/32	Mallard 25/20
Rock pigeon 10/20	Red-breasted Nuthatch 0/0	Northern Cardinal 27/ 32	Hooded Merganser 5/9
Mourning Dove 81/109	White-breasted Nuthatch 0/3	Red-winged Blackbird 7/2	Red-breasted Merganser 2/0
Monk Parakeet 0/0	Carolina Wren 9/11	Common Grackle 50+/46+	Black Backed Gull 0/2
Red-bellied Woodpecker 9/8	American Robin 1/30+	Brown-headed Cowbird 0/0	Snowy Owl 1/0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 0/0	Northern Mockingbird 3/5	House Finch 49/81	Screech Owl 1/1
Downy Woodpecker 14/15	Brown Thrasher 0/0	American Goldfinch 3/6	Belted Kingfisher 2/2
Hairy Woodpecker 1/1	European Starling 133+/188+	House Sparrow 98+/75	Phoebe 1/0
Northern Flicker 1/2	Towhee 0/0		Brown Creeper 0/1
Blue Jay 38/38	Fox Sparrow 4/14	OTHER SPECIES:	Hermit Thrush 1/1

Great South Bay Audubon Society

Officers

Interim President: Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059

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

Vera Capogna (516) 639-5430

Steve D'Amato (631) 264-8413

Amy Duryea (516) 642-4261

Jack Isaacs (631) 567-7631

Michael Maraviglia (631) 338-0549

Peggy Marsh (631) 667-3556

Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731

Committee Chairs

Hospitality: Audrey Collins

Conservation:

Michael Maraviglia (631) 338-0549

Membership: Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731

Publicity: Helga Merryman (631) 669-6473

Education: Juliane Wohler, Janet Gremli,
Jack Finkenberg

Audubon Activist: Open

Newsletter: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969

Nature Walks: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028

Programs: Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059

Librarian: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969

Annual Dinner:

Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405

Mailing: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028

Email Responder: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969

Answering the GSBAS Direct Phone:
Helga Merryman

GSBAS Direct Phone Number (631) 563-7716

GSBAS website: GSBAS.org

GSBAS email address: info@gsbas.org

For wildlife in need of rescue please call

The STAR Foundation (631) 736-8207

If you would like to become a member of GSBAS, please see membership form on our website: GSBAS.org

Brookside Blossoms with Help from Scouts Talented Girl Scout Designs Whimsical Note Cards

Brookside County Park has become more beautiful with each award project completed by the Girl Scout Troops from the Sayville area. Each garden designed by the Girl Scouts has its own personality and features that convey a special theme. With their energy, enthusiasm, and dedication, another special planting has been completed. Katie G. of Troop 559 in Sayville, has enhanced the Invincible Spirit Garden at the entrance to the park with the planting of a pink flowering crepe myrtle tree. As her Gold Award project, Katie planted this tree in memory of Mrs. Jeanne Anderson, co-leader of Girl Scout Troop 559. Mrs. Anderson, who died of cancer, was a mentor and leader for the girls of Troop 559. Katie states her Gold Award project is "in honor of Mrs. Anderson and all of the amazing volunteers in our community."

To continue the care and maintenance of the Invincible Spirit Garden, Katie has embarked on a new endeavor. Katie has designed adorable note cards and is selling them as a fundraiser for the garden. Please see the designs below of her Nature Notecards and help support the beautiful gardens for all to enjoy at Brookside County Park.

Order Form for Nature NoteCards

Name _____

Address _____

email or phone number _____

\$22 per set of 12 (includes envelopes)

Make checks payable to Troop 559 • Mail check and order form to:

Great South Bay Audubon Society, Nature NoteCards

PO Box 267, Sayville NY 11782

_____ **Set of 12 assorted (2 cards of each design)**

_____ **12 cards of one design: Indicate name of design:** _____



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



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