



In the Air & On the Air with Audubon Virtual Events

No need for social distance with these events presented by Audubon chapters and partners near and far!

Dawn Chorus Livestream

Saturday, June 27, 2020 7:00am - 7:45am

Greenwich, CT Online

Morning birdsongs LIVE from Greenwich Audubon Center to enjoy from the comfort of your own home. Livestream at www.facebook.com/GreenwichAudubonCenter

Sunset Session Livestream

Saturday, June 27, 2020 7:00pm - 7:45am

Greenwich, CT Online

Streaming session LIVE from Greenwich Audubon Center, with staff answering your questions via chat. Livestream at www.facebook.com/GreenwichAudubonCenter

Ask the Naturalist – Online

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:00pm – 12:30pm

Sharon, CT Online

Live interactive video discussion with naturalist Bethany Sheffer on wildlife, conservation, and our natural world. Livestream at www.facebook.com/SharonAudubonCenter.

Bobwhite Quail Study – Online Join Ranger Eric Powers of CEED – The Center for Environmental and Educational Discovery – through his program to incubate and raise quail until they are ready for release into the wild. Live quail release on July 25, 2020, conditions permitting. Program information at <https://ceedli.org/bobwhite-quail-study/>

Virtual Paint Class – Online • August 8, 2020 2:00pm with GSBAS

Spend some time painting with us! Details and registration to be advised as of July 25 on our website. Fee for the class is \$20. Information at <http://www.gsbas.org/program.asp>.

Bird from Home Project The Audubon Society plans to feature a selection of reader submissions, so share your own photos for the Bird From Home project on Instagram and other platforms by tagging them with **#BirdFromHome**.



President's Message

by Jody Banaszak

Hello my little birding friends! Hope you are all well and keeping safe with this horrible coronavirus. I could go on and on about it, but won't. It's just been a big inconvenience not being able to do the things we love. We couldn't celebrate my grandson's first birthday and my mom's 90th birthday. And the worst of all, losing family and friends to this virus. My condolences to those of you who have.

Our migraters are back. I've been going to the Holtsville Ecology Center to get compost and am greeted by a Baltimore Oriole each time. I love their song. Unlike the Mockingbird who starts singing when I go to my mom's to help in the garden. Luckily he only sings for a few minutes and moves down the street. Those birds are so annoying and I don't know how they don't get a sore throat. Of course, I have one in my yard, again, too. My neighbor Greg had a quail in his yard, which is weird since there's really no woods in the area, and Mike saw a hummingbird in Miller Place.



Photo: Lorraine Minns

The Osprey have kicked out the Bald Eagles who took over their nest in the Sayville cell phone tower. Don't know where they went, but an Eagle has been seen in my neighborhood. It's finally time to start planting your flowers for birds and pollinators. It's important for our ecosystem. I can't wait to get a Goldfinch and Hummingbird at my feeders and I've had an Egret and a Green Heron in my backyard. There must be a Redwing Blackbird nest in the area because they keep attacking the Egret. One time I found a Redwing Blackbird nest in my yard. It was woven in the reeds! I don't know how they did that. Birds are amazing when making their nests. The things they use and recycle, and the time and patience it must take for some of them to make these nests. Spider webs, lichen, plastic bags, yarn, mud, leaves, sticks, reeds, etc. My question is always why? Why are they all different and how do they know what to use? Of course the answer I am always given is "instinct"! It still never really answers my question when I look up that word!

Amid all the difficulties of this year, GSBAS is still planning forward. Sadly, our annual live animal June meeting is unable to take place in person at Brookside. However, the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center in Hampton Bays who was scheduled for that meeting will be presenting a fun and informative event via Zoom on June 18th (see GSBAS Events).

You can learn all the details about this event, a July Zoom presentation, a virtual paint class, our 3rd annual festival, Birds of a Feather Flock Together, and our rescheduled May dinner/fundraiser in this newsletter.

Ok folks, be safe, stay well and don't throw your used rubber gloves and masks anyplace but in the GARBAGE CAN! I can't, or maybe I can, believe how many gloves I've seen left on the ground at shopping centers and in shopping carts! There are a lot of people at the Holtsville Ecology Center walking the trail. While I was there getting compost, a man had walked the trail with his wife and was heading to the recycling bins to throw out their empty water bottles. I thanked him and he said, "Just trying to keep it clean". I replied, "I wish more people were like you". P.S. I hope Governor Cuomo doesn't make the piping plovers stay 6ft. apart and wear masks!

Happy birding!
- Jody

In Memory Of...

In the beginning of February of this year, Great South Bay Audubon Society received a donation from The Ladies Auxiliary of the Bayport Fire Department in memory of Grace Shand. Her name was not familiar to me, so I scanned through our membership list and asked some people if anyone knew her. No one did.

Then we got another – and another – and another. I didn't want to impose upon a grieving family, but wanted to know more about this woman who loved nature enough that her friends were donating to us in her honor. So, I wrote to her daughter, Heather.

Heather graciously responded to me with a beautiful letter which told the story of how her mother loved nature, especially birds and flowers. How, as a child, she remembers her mother waking her in the middle of the night to go outside and see an owl hooting in the big pine in their yard or to go over to the neighbor's house to see a night-blooming cereus. What memories Grace bestowed upon her daughter!

In later years, Grace was a backyard bird watcher from her apartment, sharing her sightings with Heather, who set her up with feeders– red breasted and white breasted nuthatch, chickadee, cardinals, goldfinches, house finches, downy and hairy woodpeckers, junco and even a rose breasted grosbeak a few times in May. How excited was I when I had my first backyard rose breasted grosbeak this May!

Grace's friend, Pam Raymond, shared with her about Brookside. Heather decided to list Great South Bay Audubon as a place to donate to in her mother's honor.



A rose-breasted grosbeak.
Photo: Alan Lenk

We have received donations in the past several years in memory of several people whom we have loved and who loved birding and nature. It is really an honor for us to have the opportunity to be stewards of Brookside County Park and to protect and nurture a little corner of this planet. This time of confinement has been a respite for nature. It seems the birds are more vocal and visible. Maybe that is because we are quieter and less infringing. Although these months have brought some sorrow along, I hope that they have also brought some new insight and thoughtfulness as to just how precious life is – all life – not just a self-serving one. A life that serves nature does serve man.

Never underestimate how much that forms a child's heart.

THE GREAT SOUTH BAY



AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Birds of a Feather Flock Together

BIRD FESTIVAL

- There will be a live band, wildlife presentations, and educational demonstrations
- Ranger Eric will be returning with an array of interesting birds, animals and stories.
- A bee keeper and honey samples, native plant experts and guided tours of the grounds.
- A public art show that will showcase nature, wildlife and bird related art in a variety of art mediums



FREE ADMISSION!

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2020

11:00AM - 3:00PM

BROOKSIDE COUNTY PARK

59 BROOK ST, SAYVILLE NY 11779

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

GSBAS Annual Dinner (rescheduled to October)

by Annette Brownell



Photo: chuttersnap on unsplash.com

My office decided to schedule an ice cream social in March. At the time, the biggest problem was deciding on a time to have it – do we eat ice cream for lunch? Do we skip lunch hour and have it at 2? Everyone had an opinion. After so much “discussion”, it was disappointing to have to cancel it.

Who would have thought that a month later, we would be looking at postponing the May dinner? Or, were we cancelling it for this year? After a lot of debate, listening to members thoughts and watching the times, we have rescheduled the dinner for Monday, October 26. It is the latest date that we could go before getting into the November/December holiday season.

I’m certain that it will be wonderful. Captain Bill’s has been gracious, as always. I am excited to get back into the party planning business (this has been a dry season for someone like me who loves to plan get togethers) and will be very happy to share my energy and excitement with anyone who would like to help! Email or text Annette. My info is on the back of the newsletter.

GSBAS Events by Annette Brownell

***June Meeting: Raptors - Zoom • Saturday, June 25, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 8 pm EST**

James MacDougall, from the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center in Hampton Bays, will be hosting an exciting Raptor show (hawks and owls, maybe an eagle) via Zoom.

Meeting ID: **959 2136 4969** Password: **2JiJrU**

***July Special Meeting: Bobwhite Quail Study – Online**

Join Ranger Eric Powers of CEED – The Center for Environmental and Educational Discovery – through his program to incubate and raise quail until they are ready for release into the wild. Live quail release on July 25, 2020, conditions permitting. Program information at ceedli.org/bobwhite-quail-study

Virtual Paint Class with Jody • August 8, 2020 2:00pm with GSBAS

Spend some time painting with us! Details and registration to be advised as of July 25 on our website. Fee for the class is \$20. Information at <http://www.gsbas.org/program.asp>.

Birds of a Feather Flock Together Bird Festival • Brookside County Park

We are moving forward with our plans for this fun event as we wait for legislative direction from Suffolk County. See our newsletter flyer on **page 3** for details.

*sponsored by GSBAS

Screech Owls by Janet Gremli

This pair of Eastern Screech-Owls (*megascops asio*) have been observed in my yard since May 15, 2020. It is very exciting to have an owl pair for neighbors. Their presence has been noted earlier due to the pellets and droppings found at their favorite roosting spots. These birds are cavity nesters. They nest in natural tree hollows or those tree-holes abandoned by woodpeckers. Dead trees, called snags, are an ideal habitat.

These owls have been observed both mid-morning and at dusk, independently, perched in a nearby maple tree. At mid-morning, blue jays are often circling and cawing within close proximity of the owl, raising alarm of the predators presence.

The owl remains very silent and very still. At dusk, the singular owl will noiselessly swoop from a tree limb into the darkness, with their soft whinnies and trills easily identified. Enjoy the beauty of dead trees as they are significant habitat for many creatures. You, too, may find a nesting owl pair in a nearby snag.



Photo: Janet Gremli

Feeder Survey compiled by Helga Merryman

This is the last report from our Fall '19-Spring '20 survey. I wish to thank everyone who participated and look forward to starting again in November, please have a happy and safe summer.

For this survey period we had 5 participants, Banaszak, Fogarty, Kremer Parrott, Merryman and Unterschuetz, the 4 areas represented were Babylon, Blue Point, Lindenhurst, and West Sayville. Alisa Kremer-Parrott was sad to observe a Cooper's Hawk kill a male Cardinal at her feeder, and she also saw a Little Brown Bat at dusk in her yard. 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.

Survey Data: March 2020

Red-tailed Hawk 0	Black-capped Chickadee 8	Dark-eyed Junco 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Tufted Titmouse 0	Northern Cardinal 16
Cooper's hawk 1	Red-breasted Nuthatch 0	Red-winged Blackbird 7
Rock pigeon 0	White-breasted Nuthatch 2	Common Grackle 34
Mourning Dove 32	Carolina Wren 7	Brown-headed Cowbird 0
Monk Parakeet 2	American Robin 10	House Finch 20
Red-bellied Woodpecker 6	Northern Mockingbird 6	American Goldfinch 6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 0	Brown Thrasher 0	House Sparrow 24
Downy Woodpecker 7	European Starling 63	
Hairy Woodpecker 1	Towhee 0	OTHER SPECIES
Northern Flicker 0	Fox Sparrow 2	Mallards 2
Blue Jay 17	Song Sparrow 5	
American Crow 17	White-throated Sparrow 6	

Bird Watching Volunteers Help Climate Watch

by Noreen Brittenham

Birds are barometers of change. Their close relationship with plants and insects allow them to tell us when things are changing in our environment. Climate change is the biggest threat to birds around the world, as two thirds of North American species are at risk of extinction due to its impact.

The good news is there are plenty of opportunities to protect birds from this threat, and Audubon volunteers and scientists are working hard to understand what birds are telling us about what is happening. People can help tell the story of the birds we love by collecting vital information on how they are already shifting their ranges in response to climate change.

Audubon's community science program, Climate Watch, is a way to contribute even in a small personal way to efforts that will benefit the birds now and in the future. Climate Watch began after Audubon's first climate change report in 2014, when thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds.

Volunteers have collected data which scientists are able to use in researching how birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. The 2019 report, "Survival By Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink," demonstrates how vital the program has become in supplying data for assessing environmental impact.

Anyone interested can help by observing birds in their areas, using some easy, specific guidelines. Each winter and summer, Climate Watch volunteers head out to nearby spots where species are expected to appear. These observations can help reveal whether birds are keeping up with the changes in their environment, as well as give clues to what challenges they face, and how to help them.

All over North America, Climate Watch volunteers complete counts in their local areas, gaining useful monitoring and data entry skills, ensuring that trends from targeted species will be represented in the national analysis. The data is valuable; Climate Watch reports back the findings directly to those who volunteer so they can see just how much their efforts are contributing to understanding bird range shifts.

The Climate Watch details and website can be found at audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch

Due to the current pandemic, no volunteers will be conducting observations and surveys for the 2020 spring period. The next survey will take place Jan 15 - Feb 15, 2021, and is open to the public, including all Audubon chapters and centers, community groups, and organized groups or individuals with an interest in birds.



Photo: Karen Jettmar Alamy

Upcoming Nature Walks

Saturday August 22, 8:00 am, Jamaica Bay
Leaders John Gluth (631-827-0120), Mike Cooper (516-523-2369)

Southern State Pkwy to Belt Pkwy to Exit 17, Cross Bay Blvd. South. Continue south for about 2 miles. Look for entrance of refuge on the right (west) side. There are signs for park entrance (Knee High boots are good to have)

Saturday September 12, 8:00 am,
Connetquot River SPP Breakfast & Birding
Leaders Edith & Bob Wilson, Helga Merryman, Ken Thompson, Jack Carlson.

Continental breakfast provided by Great South Bay Audubon and NYS Parks.. Reservations required - call Connetquot River Park Preserve at 581-1072 to register. Registration fee \$4. plus \$8 parking fee per car - unless you have yearly Empire pass.

Saturday September 19, 8:00 am, Robert Moses Hawk Watch & Jones beach WE
Leaders Ken Thompson (631-612-8028) John Gluth (631-827-0120)

Meet at Robert Moses State Park parking field #5 northeast corner. May require parking fee.



Directions to Brookside County Park
 59 Brook St, Sayville 11782

The park is located on the north side of Brook St., just east of, and diagonally across from Sayville High School. Look for the large white sign that says "Brookside County Park" . From the West and East via Sunrise Hwy: Sunrise Highway to Locust Ave. 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 (north side of street). Look for the "Brookside County Park" sign.

You may park in the high school parking lot and walk across the street to the park.

Join the Flock at Audubon For Kids!

audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids

According to current research, today's children spend 50% of their time on some type of device, and 90% of their time indoors. The recent quarantine has caused families to cut back on outings, keeping children inside much of the time. Summer is perfect for getting outside to enjoy all that nature offers.



Audubon for Kids offers great DIY activities, home experiments, interesting information and projects for kids and families to explore. Beyond observing or identifying birds, they give children space to explore and feel connected to the natural world. There are units on climate change, shore birds, birds of prey and loads of activities that the whole family can enjoy. All that's needed is your curiosity.

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:

"Great South Bay Audubon Society" and mail to:
 GSBAS, P.O. Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782

☐ New Membership \$20 ☐ New Membership Senior (62+) \$15
☐ Renewal \$20 ☐ Renewal Senior (62+) \$15

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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Great South Bay Audubon Society
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A Chapter of National Audubon



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THE SANDPIPER

Raptors on Zoom!

James MacDougall, from the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center in Hampton Bays, will be hosting an exciting Raptor show (hawks and owls, maybe an eagle) via Zoom.

Join us **Saturday, June 25, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 8 pm EST.** Go to **page 4** for more information.

