



THE GREAT SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

(631) 563-7716 • greatsouthbayaudubon.org

Mission Statement

The 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.

ISSUE LIX • SEPTEMBER 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022



THE SANDPIPER

FEATURE STORY

The Times They Are A-Changin’

by Annette Brownell

“Come gather round people where you roam,
and admit that the waters around you have grown
And accept it that soon you’ll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth savin’ and you better start swimmin’
Or you’ll sink like a stone for the times they are a-changin’.”

These lyrics from this 1964 Bob Dylan song, like many of his lyrics, are harshly honest - and right now epitomize the circumstances at the Great South Bay Audubon Society.



Gold Finch by Jody Banaszak

We are in need of new committed volunteers and new board members. We are looking for those individuals who want to join us in our mission and can commit to being an active part our group on the South Shore of Long Island and ...

- **Add to the beauty of our home at the Brookside County Park in Islip.**
- **Learn about the many magnificent species of birds on Long Island through our Birdwalks.**
- **Be a part of or LEAD events that share information and camaraderie in our bird-loving community.**

The reality of our immediate need is significant. Because we are a Society governed through a series of by-laws, we are under constraints on the types of programs we run and how we spend our funds. We also have to achieve compliance on a county, state and national level. Items dictated include term limits, meeting schedules and how we vote - even things as simple as how often we publish our newsletter.

As many of you know, Jody Banaszak has been President beyond the time allowed by our by-laws. We do not have a Vice President and I have been the Treasurer for a decade. **At present, we do not have enough board members to keep our doors open.** There cannot be another event, another cleanup or participation in another National or New York Audubon sponsored initiative without a new level of commitment coming from all.

It is time for this organization to decide if they want to continue as the Great South Audubon Society, if they want to maintain the stewardship agreement with the County or if they want to simply be a bird club.

The need is immediate; we need **6 new board members** and **6 people to spearhead committees** and put in volunteer time. Without this, we will have to close our doors.

Contact greatsouthbayaudubon@gmail.com for more information.



President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM GSBAS PRESIDENT JODY BANASZAK

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks by Lisa Nasta

Hello my little birding friends! Hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the birds. I've had a couple of Little Green Herons and Egrets in the back yard but not the Great Blue Heron like I always have. Guess he doesn't like the food anymore! I put up my hummingbird feeders but haven't seen any, but I've seen so many different butterflies in my yard. They love my butterfly bush! As you read this newsletter it will be the fall and some birds may be leaving and new ones coming in. It's nice to see different birds throughout the year. It's funny that some of them are like people who go to Florida during the winter and stay here in the summer! I guess that's why they call them "Snowbirds!"

I love the seasons and don't think I could live where we didn't have them. I loved the snow because we always had a snow day and a day off from school or work. (I was an Art Teacher!) At least we hoped for one!! Summers we had off from school and boating and the beach was great. Spring brought all the beautiful flowers and bushes.

The fall colors of the trees are so beautiful. I was speaking to someone about trees one day, and she said their neighbor cut down so many trees in his yard. Now she has no shade on her patio. Other people have told me the same thing. It's probably because they don't want to rake the leaves! Hire a person to rake your leaves and leave the trees alone!

Trees serve so many purposes. They provide shade, homes for birds and other animals, beautiful landscapes and are nice to look at. Trees inhale carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. Cutting down trees reverses this process and makes the planet heat up faster. Climate change! One hardwood tree stores one ton of carbon by the time it's 40 years old. That's 48 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. The roots from trees filter water so that polluted runoff, like fertilizers, pet waste and insect repellent doesn't harm large bodies of water, affecting more animals.

So leave your trees alone.

We will also start our monthly meetings in September at Seatuck. We have acquired several good speakers and hope you can join us. It's been nice to finally get out since covid. We've had some good bird walks and it will be nice to start again. Hope to see you soon. Have a safe Halloween and a Happy Thanksgiving. Happy Birding!!

Jody!

Where to Buy Bird-Friendly Maple Syrup In New York

from National Audubon Society

What words come to mind when you think of maple syrup? Think birdier than "sticky" and "delicious" -- how about "bright red" and "full of song"?

Maple products come from forests managed in very different ways. By purchasing Bird-Friendly Maple syrup, you are supporting producers who are committed to managing their forests in ways that benefit an incredible variety of nesting songbirds, including Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Thrushes, and Veeries.



Look for the Maple Managed for Birds label the next time you buy maple syrup! If you really want the perfect breakfast, sip on some Bird-Friendly Coffee too!

Producer	Town	Contact	Email	Website
Boulderfield Farms	Brant Lake	Steve and Sara Mullins	s.mullins@frontier.com	
Fairbanks Maple	Forestville	Megan Macintyre	fairbanksmaple-farms@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/Fairbanks-Maple/
Griffin Road Maple	Canton	Ian and Becky MacKeller	cncaboose@gmail.com	
Mapleland Farms	Salem	Mary Jean Pecker	mjpacker10@gmail.com	http://www.maplelandfarms.com/
SapwoodFarms	Dryden	Sean Carter	maria@getsapwood.com	https://www.getsapwood.com/
Sunnyhill Farm	Arcade	Norm Amesis	Names1964@gmail.com	
Uihlein Maple Research Forest	Lake Placid	Adam Wild	Adw94@cornell.edu	https://blogs.cornell.edu/cornellmaple/uihlein-research-forest/

Upcoming Speakers

We will be holding in person general meetings September through December at Seatuck Environmental Foundation, located at the Scully Estate, 550 South Bay Ave, Islip, NY, the third Thursday of the month. All are welcome.

Meetings begin at 7 pm with a fellowship time. The speaker will begin at 7:30.

September 15 feature – Erika Graham from LI Natives (not LINPI). Erika is a lovely and engaging young woman with a BS in Plant and Soil Science and Environmental Studies. She is a certified Horticulturist, owned and operated a landscape design company for 15 years and is currently the Production Manager and Assistant grower at Long Island Natives. Find out more at www.longislandnatives.com

October 20 feature – Past well known speaker, Joe Giunta will be joining us on October 20 with his presentation “The Best of the Tropics”, a comparison of birding in Costa Rica and Panama, showcasing some of the best birds from both countries. Joe has several interesting topics and also runs birding tours. Find out more about Joe at JGiunta46@aol.com

November 17 feature – New York Marine Rescue Center – Cold Stun Sea Turtles: For more information visit www.nymarinerescue.org

December 15 Year end celebration – details to follow.

Nature Walks For Fall 2022

Tuesday Sept 06, 9:30am Connetquot SPP

Meet in the parking lot near booth. May require entrance fee of \$8.

Tuesday, Sept 13, 9:30 am Shinnecock Dune Rd

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. We meet at the ocean overlook parking area south of the road,.

Tuesday, Sept 20, 9:30 am Oceanside MNSA & 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 Sept 27, 9:30 am Suffolk County Farm

350 Yaphank Avenue Yaphank NY.

Take Sunrise Highway to exit 57N, Horseblock Rd. Bear right onto County Road 21, Yaphank Ave.

Travel approximately one mile to the Cornell Cooperative Extension on left. Turn left onto the entrance road. Take your first right and follow down and meet at the visitors parking area on your left.

Tuesday Oct 4, 9:30 am St Joseph Campus

Take Sunrise Highway to Brentwood Rd. north approximately 2.5 mi look for the main entrance.

Meet in the parking lot in front of building 4.

Tuesday Oct 11, 9:30 am Robert Moses SP

Meet in Field 5 at the northeast corner.

Tuesday Oct 18 9:30 am Avalon

Rte. 25A to Village of Stonybrook at Carriage Museum, 25A turns right do not turn right, but proceed straight ahead on Main St. to Harbor Rd and park in legal spots by Grist Mill Tuesday Oct 25, 9:30 Jones Beach West End Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near the Coast Guard Station.

Tuesday Oct 25 9:30 am Jones Beach West End

Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near Coast Guard Station.

Tuesday Nov 1, 9:30 am Blydenburg CP

Entrance on Veterans Highway just west of the Route 347 merge. Use Blydenburgh entrance not Greengate Park entrance.

Meet in the parking lot at the boat ramp area.

Tuesday Nov 8, 9:30 am Sunken Meadow SP

Meet in the main parking lot in front of the main pavilion near the traffic circle.

More Walks 

Saturday September 17, 8:30 am**Connetquot River SPP Bird at The Preserve**

Leaders Edith Wilson, Helga Merryman, Ken Thompson, Jack Carlson. Reservations required 4\$ at Eventbrite.com search #NatureAdventure, Plus 8\$ parking fee per car - unless you have a yearly Empire pass.

Saturday September 24, 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 a parking fee.

Saturday October 15, 8:30 am, Caumsett SP

Leaders John Gluth (631-827-0120)

Ken Thompson (631-612-8028)

350 Northern State to exit 42N (Route35) to 25A west to West...

..Neck Rd.(right turn). West Neck/Lloyd Harbor Rd. into Lloyd Neck. Entrance to the Park on the left. Meet in the parking lot.

Saturday November 5, 8:30 Suffolk County Farm

Leaders Vera Capogna (516-639-5430) John Gluth (631-827-0120) 350 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank NY.

Take Sunrise Highway to exit 57N, Horseblock Rd. Bear right onto County Road 21, Yaphank Ave. Travel approximately one mile to the Cornell Cooperative Extension on the left. Turn left onto the entrance road. Take your first right and follow down and meet at the visitors parking area on your left.

Sunday November 13, 9:00 am, Morton NWR

Leaders Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028)

Sunrise Highway east past Shinnecock Canal. Look for a North Sea Road Noyack sign and bear left on CR52. Stay on CR52 and then turn left at light onto CR38. After 1.4 miles on CR38, turn right onto Noyack Road after 5 miles turn left onto refuge.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

by Annette Brownell

My 11th grade literature class changed my life. I had a fascinating and enthusiastic teacher who brought life and meaning to the Romantic Era literature we read, amongst which was "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner", by Samuel Coleridge. If you are unfamiliar with the tale, it is well worth the read. It is the story of a mariner who kills an albatross for no reason and brings the ghastliest curse upon his ship and men. The lesson that he learned and was compelled to preach was: "He prayeth best, who loveth best all things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all." The stirring reality of the seriousness of this made me realize that there is no insignificant life.



Gosling by Annette Brownell

I bring this up to share with you 3 stories of rescue. The first is a little baby gosling that was found running around a busy road with seemingly no mamma around. It was picked up by Jody Banaszak's sister, spent a little time with Jody and came to me. Now, I love everything and am just certain that all nature can live in harmony together but I realize that just isn't true and wildlife does not belong living in our environment. It was a real struggle to not snuggle this little thing up. I left it alone as much as I could, with a mirror to catch its own image. I could keep it and raise a Canada Goose without a problem. I read the book 'Rechenka' and would have loved a real-life story like that, but, both Jody and I knew it had to be released, for its own benefit. However, I wanted a guarantee that there was going to be a happy ending. Sweetbriar told me that geese are better parents than humans are. We went out on the lake by Brookwood Hall in a row boat on a cold day with the little gosling, looking for an adoptive family to hopefully release it to. We stalked a family with 5 goslings a little smaller than

our guy. I put him in the water and watched him swim away. He went right to them. We watched the mamma bring some of the goslings up on land. When 2 of them couldn't get up (ours was one), the father called the mother back down and they went to find another landing area. Everyone looked on land and sea as if all were fine.

A smaller rescue happened the on the evening of Primary Day. I got a text from the guy who cut my lawn that he got a baby bird and was leaving it on my porch when I got home that night, I found a youngish fledgling Robin in a box. I brought it in, wrapped it up because it was shivering and locked it where my cats couldn't get it. Knowing my limitations with wildlife and my temptation to want to keep everything, I delivered it the next morning to the Sweetbriar Nature Center in Smithtown.

The final rescue story was submitted by one of my daughter's friends Vanessa.

We found a robin's nest with three babies on the back of a construction truck that made its way to our farm, The Hemptons. The truck was headed to a different site the following day, so the nest would not be returning to its original location. We removed the nest from the truck, not knowing exactly what to do with the three screaming hungry baby robins! We had mealworms on hand for our bluebird feeders, so we soaked them in water and fed them to the robins with chopsticks. It worked! They all jumped up happily gobbling down multiple mealworms at a time. We fed the baby robins for three days, but were leaving on vacation for a week. There was a barn swallow's nest in the barn, so we put the robins in a nest shelf next to the swallows' nest. It took about a day, but the swallows started feeding the robins! This went on for nearly a week. One of the robins was larger and dominant, and ended up eating all of the food and smothering its two other siblings. So while we had one survivor, it was better than none.

Why am I telling you all this? To remind you that it is so easy to make a difference. It may mean going a little out of your way. It may mean costing you in the way of a donation to a nature center or rehabilitation center, like Sweetbriar or Star Foundation. Maybe you will decide to volunteer at an organization and include your kids or grandkids. How wonderful would that be.

It is a privilege to live life on purpose.



Fledgling Robin by Annette Brownell



Robin by Vanessa

Art & Photography

VIEW OUR FULL GALLERY AT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.GREATSOUTHBAYAUDUBON.ORG



Old World Flycatcher - Robert Glasser



Gull - Dakota Priolo



© Lisa Nasta

Killdeer - Lisa Nasta



House Sparrow - Liana Jones



Egret - Bhargav Dandamudi



Eagle Defending Catch - Laura M. Eppig

10 Fun Facts About the Pileated Woodpecker

by Jenny McKee

The Pileated Woodpecker is a fabulous gateway species into birding—especially for young kids. Large and easy to observe without binoculars, the Pileated is native to Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and the eastern half of the United States. The impressive bird is best known for its distinctive and prominent red crest, which contrasts sharply with its white-and-black face striping, black body, and black wings with white patches. Glimpsing one of these birds in the wild will leave anyone in awe, but here are some fun facts that will make you further appreciate this charismatic species.

1.) Excluding the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which is largely believed to be extinct, 22 woodpecker species call North America home. The Pileated is the largest living woodpecker in North America—nearly three times taller than the petite Downy Woodpecker.

2.) Pileated Woodpeckers experienced huge population declines in the eastern United States in the 18th and 19th centuries due to habitat loss caused by the clearing of forests for agriculture and timber harvesting. The population only started to recover in the 1920s with state and federal protection, combined with forest regrowth and the woodpecker's ability to exploit suburban and urban areas. Their numbers have increased steadily since the 1960s, to an estimated 2.6 million birds today.

3.) Pileated pairs historically may have required an area as large as 300 to 900 acres to support nestlings, especially in the West, but some pairs now raise young on fewer than 150 acres. A sure sign that the resilient woodpecker is continuing to adapt: A pair recently nested in a 74-acre state forest on Staten Island in New York City.

4.) Pileated Woodpeckers nest almost exclusively in snags, or standing dead trees. They are the bird's home, nursery, and cafeteria. Pileateds prefer deciduous and coniferous forests with larger, old growth trees that can support their spacious cavities. A dead limb on a living tree or a utility pole will also suffice—a creative use to survive in urban environments.

5.) They rarely nest in the same tree hollow twice. The strong bill of the Pileated Woodpecker chisels a hole in dead (and, occasionally, live) wood to create a home to raise young. Cavity-nesting ducks that can't excavate their own holes, such as Wood Ducks, rely on these abandoned Pileated Woodpecker cavities to breed. Consider leaving large, dead trees up to give Pileated Woodpeckers—and maybe even their successors—a chance to breed in your backyard.



Pileated Woodpeckers by Ruhikanta Meetei

6.) The species earns its common and species name, *pileatus*, from the flashy red crest that covers the pileum, or top of the bird's head. Both males and females sport this distinctive red crest, but the male's extends further toward the bill.

7.) Pileated Woodpeckers drum slowly, accelerating and then trailing off at the end, distinguishing them from most other woodpeckers that drum at a steady rate. They can drum close to 17 beats per second and will perform 10 to 30 beats before they take a break. This behavior helps them defend territories and attract mates as a part of courtship displays. However, louder drumming doesn't conclusively identify a Pileated Woodpecker: A tiny Downy Woodpecker's drumming can be deceptively loud if it's hammering away on a hollowed-out limb.

8.) There's no mistaking a Pileated Woodpecker's call—their loud, escalating shrieks bring to mind a maniacal laugh and can be heard from a distance. The birds also make a rapid series of *cuk-cuk-cuk* sounds in flight and when landing. Territorial calls—useful for alerting other woodpeckers that they've entered a Pileated's turf—are a higher-pitched version of this call. The laugh and appearance of the Pileated is often cited as the inspiration for Woody the Woodpecker, but this seems to be inaccurate; credit apparently goes to the Acorn Woodpecker.

9.) Compared to other woodpecker species, Pileated Woodpeckers prefer to forage in dying and decaying dead trees, using their bills to chisel distinctive rectangular holes in search of prey. Though carpenter ants make up more than half of their diet, Pileated Woodpeckers also eat nuts and fruits. Pileated Woodpecker numbers increase in areas with widespread emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that kills ash trees, suggesting that Pileated Woodpeckers could be one of the strongest lines of defense to control non-native forest pests.

10.) PIE-lee-ay-tid or PILL-ee-ay-tid? You might have heard this bird's name pronounced both ways. While the former is technically correct, many people use the latter and both have become commonly accepted in the bird world. So don't fret: Use whichever you prefer, and just know that this is not the last confusing bird name you'll encounter.

Feeder Survey Fall 2022

Compiled by Helga Merryman

The day after we cleaned out last year's nesting material from a House Wren's box the male proceeded to pack it with twigs as long as 9 inches long, it's hard to believe that a bird as tiny as a wren could ever fit inside not to mention raise a brood of up to seven babies, Wrens usually place spider egg sacs mixed in with the twigs, the theory is that when the spiders emerge they help keep the mite population down as the mites are very harmful to young birds.

The male wren usually makes a few nests, the female chooses one and maybe redecorates, she lays one egg a day until there are 6 or 7 then incubates them for about 12 to 15 days leaving occasionally to eat. After the eggs hatch both parents feed the young. After raising The first brood she may raise a second in a different nest, while he is still feeding the first brood. The wrens in my yard are already starting their second brood in an old abandoned box that we forgot to clean out. Aside from nest boxes they have been known to nest in anything convenient like tree holes, old hats, discarded shoes, pipes and old cans.

The House Wren is a tiny drab bird about 5 inches long, male and female are very similar. The male sings constantly and has an unlimited repertory; the female seems to only sing occasionally during the mating period. These tiny birds (they weigh about as much as 2 quarters) will compete fiercely for a nest site sometimes dragging eggs and nestlings out of a site they desire. It is not advisable to place House Wren nesting boxes near Bluebird, Chickadee or Tree Swallow boxes as the wrens will destroy their nests.

So far a pair of Mockingbirds raised at least one brood in my hedges, (they may raise 2 or 3 broods). Once the babies, were out of the nest, both parents wore themselves out to feed and protect them. Woe to bird, squirrel, or human to interfere - you would immediately be dive bombed by one or two manic parents.

Red-tailed Hawk _	Song Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk _	White-throated Sparrow _
Cooper's hawk _	Dark-eyed Junco _
Rock pigeon _	Northern Cardinal _
Mourning Dove _	Red-winged Blackbird _
Monk Parakeet _	Common Grackle_
Red-bellied Woodpecker _	Brown-headed Cowbird _
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _	House Finch _
Downy Woodpecker _	American Goldfinch _
Hairy Woodpecker _	House Sparrow _
Northern Flicker _	White-throated Sparrow _
Blue Jay _	Dark-eyed Junco _
American Crow _	Northern Cardinal _
Black-capped Chickadee _	Red-winged Blackbird _
Tufted Titmouse _	Common Grackle_
Red-breasted Nuthatch _	Brown-headed Cowbird _
White-breasted Nuthatch _	House Finch _
Carolina Wren _	American Goldfinch _
American Robin _	House Sparrow _
Northern Mockingbird _	
Brown Thrasher_	OTHER SPECIES
European Starling _	
Towhee _	
Fox Sparrow _	

Become a member!

As 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 Renewal \$20

New Membership Senior (62+) \$15

Renewal Senior (62+) \$15

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THE SANDPIPER

The Effects of this Harsh Summer Weather



This was a challenging summer weather-wise with unprecedented drought and heat. I lost many of my "bird staples" this summer. All my blueberries dies, I lost my whole crop of Elderberry and I doubt I will see any fruit on my Viburnum – all things I count on for my backyard birds. The Coneflower and Black Eyed Susan are shriveled. It will be unlikely that there will be seeds sitting on those flowers for winter feeding.

Be aware in the coming months that there will likely be less for birds and other wildlife to forage this winter. Consider purchasing quality food and high energy suet to help your birds through the winter.