

# The Sandpiper

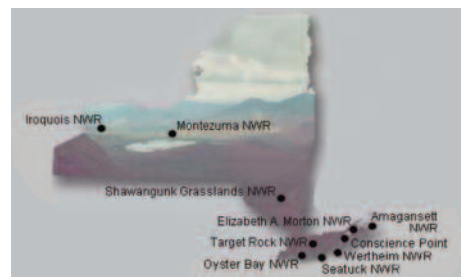
## Great South Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

### Public Lands...What do They Mean to You?

by Maria Brown, MS, PWS, GISP, Conservation Chair

On January 31, 2017 House Bill 621 was introduced by US representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah, a Tea Party Republican to sell off 3.3 million acres of federal public land. The land in question would have affected the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and Oregon. According to Chaffetz, the said lands “serve no purpose for tax payers”. Fortunately, Chaffetz announced that he would withdraw Bill 621 on the morning of February 2, 2017 due to strong opposition from groups he “supports and cares about”. From the time of the initial introduction of Bill 621, until the time of its withdrawal, I was questioned on numerous occasions by community members and students who were unclear about how US public lands were managed. It became apparent that this topic would make for a meaningful lesson in this month's *Sandpiper!*



Six out of the nine NY National Wildlife Refuges are located on Long Island

Public lands of the US are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and are classified as multiple-use lands, moderately restricted lands, and restricted use lands. The largest geographic areas of public lands are mostly in Alaska (73%) and in the western USA (22%). The Multiple-use mission was set in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and mandates that BLM manage public land resources for a variety of uses, such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation and timber harvesting, while protecting a wide array of natural, cultural and historical resources. In Alaska, public lands are managed under the Multiple-use principal with an emphasis on providing a secure domestic supply of energy and strategic minerals, and on preserving rangelands for livestock under a permit system. The National Forest Service manages the forests and grasslands. The US Forest Service Management Principles include sustainable yield, where the cutting of trees should be no faster than they could regenerate, timber harvesting, grazing, recreation, and wildlife conservation. The US Forest Service manages and protects 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico. The Forest Service keeps most of the money it makes on timber sales and has allowed timber harvesting to become the dominant use of most national forests. There are no federally managed multiple-use lands in New York, although state-managed multiple-use lands are under the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Moderately restricted-use lands are mostly comprised of our 508 National Wildlife Refuges and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuges provide habitat and breeding areas for waterfowl and big game. Hunting, trapping and fishing is all regulated to maintain healthy wildlife populations. In New York, there are seven National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) of which five are located on Long Island and include: Iroquois and Montezuma NWR's located in upstate New York, and Oyster Bay, Target Rock, Elizabeth Morton, Seatuck, Wertheim, Conscience Point, and Amagansett NWR's located on Long Island, mostly in Suffolk County.

Restricted use lands consist of the 379 units of the National Park System made up of 55 major parks, and 324 national recreation areas, monuments, memorials, battlefields, historic sites, parkways, trails, rivers, seashores, and lakeshores, all of which are managed by the National Park Service. National parks may be used only for camping, hiking, sport fishing, and boating. Motor vehicles are permitted only on roads,

*continued on bottom of page 6*

**PLEASE NOTE!**  
**LOCATION CHANGE**  
 for March and April General Membership Meetings

**March & April 2017**  
 General Membership Meetings will be held at Brookside County Park.

See page 3 for more information and directions

**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, March 16**

Join photographer Bill Ronnan as he shares photos that he and his friends have taken of the wildlife at Brookside County Park. Birds are not the only residents in this hidden gem, as you will discover through this beautiful slide-show.

**Thursday, April 20**

Exotic bird expert Terri Laveroni owns many exotic birds, including macaws, and African Grays. Along with her slide show, she will discuss the behavior of these birds, such as how they talk and what makes them talk. She will be accompanied by some of her pet birds.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**Great South Bay Audubon's Annual Dinner**

Monday, May 8, 2017

Featuring  
**John P. Cardone**

*See page 4 for more information*

photo by John P. Cardone

## 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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Sayville, NY 11782

*The Sandpiper*  
is published bi-monthly.

Website: GSBAS.org  
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Submission Deadline for next issue is April 14  
send submissions to  
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## 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

It seems that we just started the winter season and we are already pulling out of it. I imagine you are just like me – pouring through seed and flower catalogs, reading about upcoming events for the spring and summer, and making plans for your yard. I'm crazy excited about getting new chicks this spring and have just had my eyes glued in my *Chickens* magazine that one of our members shared with me.

There is so much to do on Long Island – festivals, free concerts, art shops, parks, nature centers. Exciting! We live in a great place.

As always, our board has been busy planning and executing different ideas. And this doesn't even include the bird walks. In January Jody Banaszak taught an acrylic painting class at Brookside. We had so much fun – so much so that we are looking to do it again. Stay posted and think about participating. No talent needed – believe me, I speak from experience –or lack of it! February 25th brought our second annual art show. And now we are full speed into working on the dinner.

In between we will be doing our annual spring cleanup – date to be determined. Watch the website. We are discussing some other ideas and would really love to hear from people to see what kind of activities you would like to participate in. Many people on our mailing list don't really get involved in helping out the chapter. Perhaps you think that if you do, you are going to get roped into some sort of big commitment and don't want that. We have many volunteer opportunities that require only short term participation. You try it. If you like it, you try something else. We hope to hear from and see more of you in the next few months.

## Time After Time by Harry Anderson

*Time is Nature's way of preventing everything from happening all at once.*

In the Middle Ages, clocks only had a one hand. You didn't have to be Leonardo to look at a medieval clock's single hand to know it was half past the hour. No one was interested to know that it was 12:32 pm or worse 12:32:18. We soon invented the minute hand. The nanosecond, one billionth of a second, is now upon us. Actually we didn't invent the nanosecond because it was already there. An athlete can lose a race by .0015 seconds. That's losing? That kind of time is not really something to be noticed as you are trying to catch the 9:10 to the city.

How thin can you slice time? Spotify boasts that you can download music instantaneously. Is there anything faster, like downloading before you even think of it? Time is one of our great fixations and it might be unnatural, even in the face of instant coffee, fast food and Instagrams. Internet servers are always boasting of faster downloads. We can "kill time, have time outs, save time and stall for time," and, of course, "it's about time!"

St. Augustine held that time itself was difficult to define and might not even exist. What happened in the past is not governed by time and future time is really unknowable. All we have is the present moment, but once that is experienced, it is in the past. That's helpful.

Animals are affected by time in their own way. They can be trained from past experience and anticipate future events based on that experience. They don't necessarily live in the eternal present. Birds know when to migrate, but that changes as their environment does. A bear's internal clock tells it when hibernation is over. Salmon spawn as their own unique clock dictates. Do plants know time?

You can't force a Giant Sequoia to grow in five years and you can't bring a deer from fawn to doe in a month. Instant drying paint would be impossible to apply if you at all concerned with appearance.

There are now plans under way to improve train service so the trip from Boston to Manhattan will be reduced by 35 minutes. There are no studies to determine exactly what you are supposed to do with the time saved. Take time to think about it?



Spring Nature Walks  
are almost here!

Join us!

See schedule on page 3



# Great South Bay Audubon Society Activities

## General Membership Meetings and Programs\*

Please Note  
Location Change

### March and April 2017 general membership meetings will be held at Brookside County Park, 59 Brook Street in Sayville.

Join us at 7:00 p.m. 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.

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

## Louise Titus Memorial Tuesday Midweek Walks

**Tuesday March 14, 9:30 am Sunken Meadow SP** Meet in the main parking lot in front of the main pavilion near the traffic circle.

**Tuesday March 21, 9:30 am Heckscher SP** Meet in Field 5 western end.

**Tuesday March 28, 9:30 am Jones Beach West End SP** Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near the Coast Guard Station.

**Tuesday April 4, 9:30 am Jamaica Bay NWR** 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.

**Tuesday April 11, 9:30 am Robert Moses SP** Meet in Field 5 at the northeast corner.

**Tuesday April 18, 9:00 am Gardiners Park** Entrance on south side of Montauk Hwy. From west, 1/2 mile east of Robert Moses Pkwy. From east, 1 mile west of Brightwaters Canal.

**Tuesday April 25, 9:00 am Norman Levy & 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 2, 9:00 Belmont SP** Exit 38 off the Southern State Pkwy. Meet in the parking lot on the east side of the lake.

## Weekend Nature Walks

**Saturday March 4, 8:30, Bob Laskowski Memorial Duck Walk** Leader: 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 22, 8:30 am, Connetquot River SPP** Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028, John Gluth (631-827-01208) 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 29, 8:00 am, Valley Stream SP & Jones Beach West End** Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), Steve D'Amato (631-264-8413) Southern State Parkway to exit 15S, 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 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, Birding & Breakfast, Connetquot River SPP** 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 there and continue to Park Visitors Center parking lot on Old Forge Rd. Overnight at Wurtsboro Days Inn (845-888-8727).

\* The Young Naturalists Club will not meet on April 2

## May Dinner Planning Underway!

Our Annual May Dinner will be held this year on Monday, May 8. Once again it will be held at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore. We are so excited to have John P. Cardone, a Long Island author, lecturer and nature photographer discussing "The Healing Power of Nature."



John P. Cardone

With 30 years as a health care educator and his own battle with illness, John will share the scientific facts of the importance of calming your

mind, the health benefits of the outdoors and why we should share this spirit with our children. He has been invited to speak at the Survivorship Meeting of the Long Island Chapter of the National Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, numerous public libraries, the Clark Botanic Garden, the Nassau County Hiking and Outdoor Club, the Holtsville Wildlife & Ecology Center, and the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, among other centers and organizations. Much of his waterscape photography is taken while kayaking Long Island waters. You can find out more about John at [www.WaterviewsBook.com](http://www.WaterviewsBook.com).

Talented artist, Steve D'Amato, is busy working on his next painting that will be raffled off at the dinner. This year's painting will be of the beautiful Harlequin Duck. Steve has sent us a sneak preview in the way of a pencil sketch that will eventually become his finished painting.

Along with the above mentioned highlights, there will also be Chinese auctions, raffles, great food, great company, and a lot of fun, not to mention the support of our fundraiser. All money raised from this dinner helps fulfill our mission.

Watch for your dinner invitation in the mail in the next few weeks. We hope you will join us. As always, we are looking for prize donations. We enjoy artwork, nature and gardening related items, consumables (the liquor basket is still the best seller!). If you have a favorite restaurant or pizza parlor, perhaps they would be willing to donate a gift certificate.

### Early Stage of Steve D'Amato's Painting to be Raffled off at the May Dinner

The Harlequin Duck (*Histrionica histrionica*) is a small sea duck, about 15-17 inches. Its name comes from the English: harlequin, derived from the French: arlequin, which means a colorfully dressed character in Commedia dell'arte.

During breeding, the range of the Harlequin Duck is northwestern and northeastern North America, Iceland, Greenland, and northeastern Russia. In Winter, depending on weather conditions, these ducks move



Steve was fortunate enough to be able to study and photograph Harlequin Ducks on a birding trip to Barnegat Lighthouse State Park in New Jersey last year. Here is the pencil sketch stage of his painting.

south to areas as far south as Long Island and on the west coast, to northern California.

Harlequin Ducks are mostly diving feeders. They feed on mollusks, crustaceans, and insects. Inland, they breed near fast moving 'white water' streams. Being short distant migrants, they overwinter in the bays

and oceans close to the coastlines. On these coastlines, the Harlequins hang around the rocky banks protruding from the fast moving water.

## Paint Day

On January 28th GSBAS had its first "Paint Day". Seven people showed up at Brookside to paint a Great Horned Owl in acrylics on canvas. I was the instructor and great fun was had by all! For only \$15, all supplies were provided along with step by step instructions. I painted along with the "students". Everyone was nervous and afraid their owl wouldn't look like one. Only a couple of people had painted in acrylics and were anxious to move on, as the newbies were very patient. When all were finished, we took pictures and everyone was happy. Everyone's painting was different, which is what art is all about, and yes—they all looked like Great Horned Owls. We hope to have more painting classes throughout the year.

Watch our website for the date of the Brookside Spring Clean-up



-Jody Banaszak

## Why the Location Change for the Meetings You Ask?

Our monthly general meetings have been held at Connetquot River State Park Preserve for a long time. Although we love the atmosphere of both the grounds and the building, we have been discussing the idea of moving the meetings to Brookside County Park for a while now.

Although smaller, there are some desirable amenities that we have been considering. Since we are stewards of the park, we would not have to pay rent. In addition, we also feel that this move would enable people to take advantage of the extensive library at Brookside, as well as become more familiar with the grounds.

And last but not least, the bathroom is so much more accessible. We are

going to give this a try for two months without giving up our spot at Connetquot. We are hoping this will encourage more people to come to meetings. There is ample parking across the street at the Sayville High School and in the park itself.

We are anxious for some feedback on this change.

-Annette Brownell



Paint class participants with their finished art. Impressive!

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Winter Recaps

### Feb. 4th West End Jones Beach

Fourteen brave souls enjoyed a chilly morning at the West End section of Jones Beach. At the boat basin, a male Black Scoter and some Long-tailed Ducks provided nice views close in to the edge of the docks, while further out Common and Red-throated Loons were diving for breakfast. Landbirds were scarce, with a few groups of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings being the highlights. Near the West End parking field, Horned Larks were already singing and displaying, in preparation for breeding season. Horned Larks are among our earliest nesting birds, and some will have nests by the end of February. Small groups of Red-breasted Nuthatches were actively feeding and calling in the pines along the Ocean Parkway, but the winter finches that often follow them have failed to materialize this year.

As we headed east, we made stops at the fishing station at Field 10 and at Gilgo, where a lingering Black-bellied Plover has been since fall. A flock of Boat-tailed Grackles at Gilgo were a reminder of how things change. Boat-tails were unknown in New York 40 years ago, now they're easy to see at many south shore locations.

We wrapped it up with a view of Long-tailed Ducks and a few loons at Oak Beach, and by then the temperatures were balmy in the upper 30s. All-in all, a

quiet but invigorating morning at the beach.  
-Mike Cooper

### Breakfast and Birding

Saturday January 14, 2017 we held the first of our 2017 Breakfast and Birding events for the year. The weather was very accommodating, we had mild temperatures little or no wind and a slight overcast sky. Not a bad day for January. As usual the room was full, and with a lot of repeat customers.

The event is a result of collaboration between Connetquot State Park Preserve staff, The Friends of Connetquot and Great South Bay Audubon Society. The Melville Deli again donated our bagels for our breakfast.

Pam Hunter from the Parks staff did a winter birds and waterfowl presentation while everyone enjoyed the breakfast supplied by the Friends of Connetquot. After breakfast we split into groups to do our walk in the park to see what birds are around in the winter. The walks were led by Great South Bay Audubon members with help from the Park staff and Friends of Connetquot.

We started birding at the mill at the end of the main pond. There was a good sampling of ducks for us to see. We saw Gadwall, Ring-necked, Mallard, Black Duck, Common Mergansers, Mute Swans, Canada Geese and a very cooperative Ruddy Duck that stayed close for good viewing. On the rest of our walk we did see some woodland birds. There were

plenty of Red-bellied woodpeckers for everyone to see and when they got in sunlight it was very nice. We also saw Both Red and White-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was also seen.

It was another very successful Breakfast and Birding venture. -Ken Thompson

### A Day of Discovery

On Sunday, February 5, 2017, the Young Naturalists Club of GSBAS enjoyed a winter walk through the Brookside property. The attendees received a lesson on local backyard birds by looking at photos for identifying features. Armed with binoculars and a checklist of local bird species, the children proceeded with determination to seek out our feathered friends. Members were advised by Miss Juliane that the February walk often produced sightings of a Great Blue Heron.

As we meandered the trail, identifying plant species and footprints of our animal friends, we were able to hear the sounds of chickadees and cardinals nearby. Early sightings of skunk cabbage and mallards gathered on the west pond were a welcome sight. We were all surprised when up in the sky, flying just above our heads, was a Great Blue Heron, just as Miss Juliane had predicted! Such excitement as the children could now add this beautiful specimen to their life list!  
-Janet Gremlin



## MEMBER'S CORNER



### Heart & Soul by Annette Brownell

Driving to work this morning in "The Blizzard of 2017" I was amazed once again at the incredible beauty of nature. There was no one on Simone Woods Road but me, surrounded by tall snow covered trees up against a gray and white sky. Just wonderful!

There is something that nature can do for your mental health that nothing else can. Time and again we have seen how nature can help people with cancer, depression and even low self-esteem. Birding is part of the prescription. Here are 7 simple reasons to bird.

1. It's easy – Life can be complicated and stressful. Birding helps one to escape. It gets us out into the fresh air, awakening the senses to the beauty around us. The

ease of finding a bird here and there – even the common ones, removes us from the stresses of life.

2. It's challenging – Boredom is a soul killer. Learning to recognize new birds is a good brain exercise. Studying their behavior, finding them in a thicket and observing their patterns stretches your imagination. Building up your awareness gives you more mental energy for other things in your life.

3. It builds confidence – Birding has a way of inspiring us to become ambassadors for nature, eager to share what we've learned.

4. It keeps us from becoming too confident – Just when you think you know everything about a bird – you find out that there is something you didn't know.

It keeps us flexible.

5. It's predictable – Life can be a roller-coaster of the unexpected – discouraging and unsettling. The annual cycle of nature – including bird behavior and migration gives us something to look forward to.

6. It's unpredictable – Birds are full of surprises. Sometimes they wander off the path of their normal haunts and show up where they are not normally seen. Last winter I had a raven in my yard during a snow storm. We were beyond excited!

7. Birds are beautiful – Their colors, patterns, songs and behaviors inspire and delight us. Somehow they enliven our imaginations and stir our souls.

On this topic, you will enjoy this year's dinner speaker, John Cordone, as he speaks about the healing power of nature.

# CONSERVATION ISSUES

BY BOB GROVER

## Unabated

We have discussed it many times. You may be tired of reading it on this page. But climate change continues to march on, with serious ramifications. As last year's data started to come in, it made headlines on many of the digital and print news outlets, including the front page of The New York Times. Once again, this past year, 2016, set the record for the warmest year worldwide. The previous record? 2015. And the one before that? 2014. Are you starting to notice a trend? In recent columns (granted, I missed a couple) we have discussed the extreme warming in the Arctic, and how reduced sea ice is wreaking havoc on populations of iconic species such as the Dovekie and the Polar Bear, just to name two. This past fall, the temperatures above the Arctic Circle were 20 to 30 degrees (F) above long term averages, an astounding statistic. If you are still not impressed, consider that 16 of the 17 hottest years on record were recorded in this century, now only in its 17th year.

Ok, so it's a little warmer. What's the big problem? Well this climate trend has serious near term ramifications for global weather patterns, fisheries, drought, the spread of tropical diseases, some still undiscovered, famine and even likely, global military conflicts. But, since we live on an island, we will focus on an issue closest to home, and that is sea level rise (SLR).

In the December 16, 2016, issue of the preeminent journal,



Science, the highly respected Princeton geoscientist, Michael Oppenheimer, presented a new assessment of how quickly these warmer temperatures are melting glaciers, and thus raising the level of the oceans. Oppenheimer's most recent assessment based largely on trends in Antarctic Ice Sheets, which we have discussed in previous columns, indicates that global sea level rise could be greater than two meters (over 6.5 feet) by 2100. This isn't during storms, it's every day! That rate of SLR is roughly equal to the highest projections made by New York State for the Long Island Region, but for planning purposes they typically use a lower "medium" projection which is about 50% lower. Compounding the issue is the fact that the Northeast U.S. rate of SLR is significantly higher than the global average. So the State's estimates may need to be revised upward. More alarming still is the uncertainty in the statistical analysis that could push the level of the oceans up by a total of four meters (13 feet) by century's end. Most of the readers of this column will not be around to have to deal with a problem 80+ years in the future (although it is underway now), but many of our grandchildren will. Do we really want to leave this problem for them to deal with?

I have pretty much lost confidence in our ability to reverse the alteration of our atmosphere in any meaningful way, and the current President's announced intentions to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords only reinforces my skepticism. The only solution I can see is a strategic retreat from the lower reaches of the coastal plain. And it needs to start soon.

## Public Lands from front page

although a few select parks permit off-road vehicles. National Recreation areas permit the same activities, plus sport hunting, mining, and oil and gas drilling. There are nine National Seashores in the USA with Fire Island National Seashore located on the barrier island off of the south shore of Long Island. The other National seashores are: Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts), Assateague Island National Seashore (Maryland and Virginia), Cape Lookout National Seashore (North Carolina), Cumberland Island National Seashore (Georgia), Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida and Mississippi), Padre Island National Seashore (Texas), Point Reyes National Seashore (California), and

Canaveral National Seashore (Florida) (NPS.gov).

The National Wilderness Preservation System falls within the national parks, national refuges, and national forests, and contains 630 road-less areas that are managed by the National Park Service (42%), Forest Service (33%), USFWS (20%) and BLM (5%). These areas are open only for recreational activities such as hiking, sport fishing, camping, non-motorized boating, and in some areas, sport hunting and horseback riding. Roads, motorized vehicles, logging, livestock grazing, mining, commercial activities, and buildings are banned, except when they predate the wilderness designation (Miller, 2002). Since 1964, the NWPS has grown almost every year and now includes 765 areas (109,129,657 acres) in 44 states and Puerto Rico. In 1980, the passage of the Alaska

National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) added over 56 million acres of wilderness to the system, the largest addition in a single year (www.wilderness.net).

Federal public lands contain at least 20% of the country's oil reserves, 30% of its natural gas reserves, 40% of its coal reserves, and 40% of its commercial forests, as well as large amounts of hard-rock minerals (Miller, 2014). Because of the valuable resources they contain, there has been intense controversy over how public lands should be managed. Many conservation biologist and economic/free-market economists suggest that the following four principles be adopted for governing public lands which are based

on Aldo Leopold's land use ethic:

1. Protecting biodiversity, wildlife habitats, and the ecological functioning of public land ecosystems.

2. No subsidies or tax breaks should be given for using or extracting resources on public lands since billions in subsidies are given to mining, logging, and grazing interests each year.

3. The American people deserve fair compensation for the use of their property.

4. All users or extractors of resources on public lands should be fully responsible for any environmental damage they cause, which currently is remediated suing tax payer dollars (Miller, 2014).

I encourage you to continue to learn more about how public lands are managed, the controversies surrounding their management and reflect on how you value them now and for future generations. To learn more about Aldo Leopold's Land Use Ethic follow this link <https://www.aldoleopold.org/about/the-land-ethic/>.

***"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong we may begin to use it with love and respect." -Aldo Leopold***

# BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Compiled by Helga Merryman



A question arises at times, where did the common names of birds originate, not to be confused with the scientific names which are organized by scientific classification based on anatomical structure? I can only offer some of the more well known anecdotal definitions. To begin it is claimed that early colonists named the American Robin after the Robin they left behind in Europe because it also had a red breast although there is no relationship between the two birds. Chickadees, Whip-poor-wills and Killdeers are a few who have named themselves by their calls or songs. Color has named many a bird, think of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Indigo Buntings, Black-backed Gulls, Cardinals and Blue-Grosbeaks. Observation of food choices has labeled some, such as the Spruce Grouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Myrtle Warbler (now Yellow-rumped) and Worm-eating Warbler. The Boat-tailed Grackle, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Curve-billed Thrasher are a few named by their physical appearance. Particular activities such as a woodpecking, tree creeping, roadrunning, and turning stones over in search for food have given title to others. Hunters supposedly named a group of ducks Old Squaws because they thought these very vocal creatures sounded like a group of native women talking, their name has since been changed to the more politically correct (but not as colorful) Long-tailed Duck. In the British Isles during the Middle Ages the nests of certain geese were rarely found and myth had it that they hatched from the long necked Barnacles that washed up on beaches, hence their name, Barnacle Goose. When settlers started moving west, forts were built to protect them, some of the doctors who accompanied the soldiers were also naturalists and when they came upon new species of birds they named them for female friends and relatives left behind in the East, so we have Grace's Warbler, Virginia's warbler and Lucy's Warbler to name a few. And of course many birds were named after the ornithologist who first described them such as the Wilson's Warbler named for Alexander Wilson.

There is a whole other chapter that could be written about nicknames of birds, but that is a topic for another day.

For the last survey period we had a total of 11 participants; Banaszak, Cafarelli, Fogarty, Heiserer, Horman, Kremer-Parrott, McNeil, Merryman, Puglielli, Unterschuetz and Wilson, with 9 areas represented: Babylon, Bayport, Bluepoint, Deer Park, Lake Ronkonkoma, Lindenhurst, Ridge, West Islip and West Sayville. Thank you to everyone who participated. I look forward to all newcomers.

## 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 December 1-15 2016 / January 1- 15 2017

Sharp-shinned Hawk 3/4  
 Cooper's hawk 4/7  
 Rock pigeon 28/34  
 Mourning Dove 110+/100  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 8/14  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1/1  
 Downy Woodpecker 16/23  
 Hairy Woodpecker 3/4  
 Northern Flicker 3/3  
 Blue Jay 20/44  
 American Crow 12/31  
 Black-capped Chickadee 15/33  
 Tufted Titmouse 5/9  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 3/4  
 White-breasted Nuthatch 13/17

Carolina Wren 12/16  
 American Robin 1/3  
 European Starling 117/150+  
 Northern Mockingbird 2/13  
 Fox Sparrow 3/2  
 Song Sparrow 8/24  
 White-throated Sparrow 36/40  
 Dark-eyed Junco 20/45  
 Northern Cardinal 19/31  
 Red-winged Blackbird 8/14  
 Common Grackle 2/15  
 Brown-headed Cowbird 2/9  
 House Finch 76/83  
 American Goldfinch 5/14  
 House Sparrow 151/171

### OTHER SPECIES

Great Blue Heron 0/2  
 Mallards 0/16  
 Screech Owl 1/1(heard)  
 Brown Creeper 1/0  
 Baltimore Oriole 7/0  
 Boat-tailed Grackle 0/7

### SEEN ON BAY NEAR HOMES of PARTICIPANTS

Red-breasted Mergansers 0/4  
 Hooded Mergansers 0/3  
 Buffleheads 0/1  
 Scaup (Greater?) Thousands/Thousands

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Great South Bay Audubon website

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