



South Shore Bird Club

of Massachusetts

since 1946

President's Message

Words

With the right words, deciding carefully what to say and when, it is amazing what can get done.

Words can be used to spread the word on fundraising for conserving land, like Doggett Brook Farm in Rochester and Sylvester Field in Hanover, both of which have been placed under permanent conservation restriction. Or, they can be used to spread the word for fundraisers for conservation organizations like Mass Audubon's Bird-a-thon and Buzzards Bay Coalition's Watershed Ride.

Words can also be used to voice our concerns on environmental issues, like changes to the Public Lands Preservation Act or the auctioning of the Cumberland Farms property, or most recently public concerns with boats crowding whales (which resulted in signage being erected at the Plymouth boat ramp). As one voice or even the voice of a single bird club there may be little impact, but as many voices collectively our emails and letters can result in real change that does good for both people and the environment.

Yes, it's amazing what can be accomplished by simple exchange of information. Here at South Shore Bird Club, we're lucky to be surrounded by peers with passion for nature and a desire to conserve it. The examples above are all causes we have supported in the last year alone.

A few additional announcements:

- This summer 14 of us went out at red-eye early for a breeding bird survey at Mill Brook Bogs Wildlife Management Area in Freetown. A summary of the survey can be found at the end of the newsletter.
- Continuing the survey theme, our annual Fall Roundup in late September and Plymouth County Duck Count in late November are approaching. Please see the information in the newsletter and reach out to coordinators if you'd like to participate. Don't forget about Christmas Bird Counts in December, too!
- Lastly, as the weather gets colder and days shorter we are planning on starting up again with Zoom presentations. These will mostly be announced via our Google Group, so please sign up for the Google Group if you'd like to be notified.

Nate

<http://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>
southshorebirdclub@hotmail.com
<http://southshorebirdclubma.blogspot.com/>

Field Trips

Below is the list of Fall/Winter trips. Unless indicated, field trips do not have a specific end time and often last much of the day. Bring lunch and water! Participants are welcome to leave early on any SSBC trip, but please let the trip leader know prior to doing so; if carpooling, leaders may try to arrange cars so that those leaving early are together.

South Shore Bird Club COVID Guidelines

Please follow this guidance and local and federal COVID guidance during all trips for the safety of our members. Do not participate in trips if you feel ill or have been exposed recently to someone with COVID or COVID-like symptoms.

- Unvaccinated individuals are requested to wear a mask at all times during a trip.
- Vaccinated individuals should feel comfortable wearing a mask during a trip if they choose to do so.
- While COVID transmission is low outdoors, we encourage practicing social distancing when possible.
- If a trip is cancelled an announcement will be made on the Google Group. The “Upcoming Trips” portion of the SSBC homepage will always contain the most up-to-date status of trips.

SSBC will monitor COVID public health recommendations and will update this guidance as necessary.

Thanks for helping to keep us healthy while birding together!

Egypt Lane and Carolyn's Pond, Fairhaven, co-sponsored with the Paskamansett Bird Club

Saturday, September 3, 2022, 7:30 AM, morning

Carol Molander: 508-641-0991, cbmolander@gmail.com

Meet: Near 24 Egypt Lane (park on grass side of lane)

We will visit the thickets along the Phoenix Bike Trail and walk the hurricane dike to view the marsh and Carolyn's Pond. The pond was recently named after Carolyn Longworth, Paskamansett Bird Club member and retired director of Millicent Library. 214 species have been documented at this eBird hotspot.

Sandy Neck, co-sponsored with the Cape Cod Bird Club

Sunday, September 11, 2022, 8:00 AM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346,

natemarchessault@gmail.com and MJ Foti,

maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Meet: Sandy Neck Beach Parking lot, end of Sandy Neck Rd, Barnstable

We'll be looking for migrating shorebirds, terns, gulls and perhaps other pelagic species. Once we're finished with the beach, the marsh trail awaits. Expect a substantial amount of walking in soft sand.

Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Plymouth

Monday, September 12, 2022, 7:30 AM, morning

Lisa Schibley: lisa@zoompuppy.com

Meet: Main entrance parking lot at 60 Beaver Dam Rd.

Explore Tidmarsh, planning to walk at least 3 miles through part of the 479 acres of wetlands, woods and grasslands of this Mass Audubon sanctuary.



Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Bermuda, April 2022

Photo: Kathy Rawdon

Fall Roundup

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346,

natemarchessault@gmail.com

Join the Club for its long-term survey of the South Shore. You can make a difference, even if you can bird for only a few hours, but we know you'll want to bird all day! Please contact Nate for areas to cover and to join a team.

Squantum and Passanageset Park, Quincy

Sunday, September 25, 2022, 7:00 AM

Josh Bock: 773-750-9860, jbock18@gmail.com

Meet: Moswetuset Hummock, E. Squantum St.

Explore the pockets of land and adjacent saltwater marshes and bays for fall migrants and lingering shorebirds in Squantum. Next, explore the open, weedy/grassland habitat of Passanageset Park during the peak of sparrow migration.

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge & Cape May, New Jersey

Friday, September 30 - Monday, October 3, 2022

Pete Jacobson: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

& Vin Zollo: 508-641-2523, vzollo1@yahoo.com

Friday afternoon will be dedicated to birding the wildlife drive at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, NJ. Scanning the extensive impoundments and surrounding saltmarsh, we hope to encounter large flocks of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and hope to spy marsh birds like Clapper Rail and Seaside Sparrow. We'll spend Saturday, Sunday, and part of Monday in Cape May, NJ, one of the premiere fall migration sites on the US east coast. This Victorian seaside resort area at the very southern tip of New Jersey is a great setting for fall migration. Cape May is well known for hawk migration, but many other species are moving through and if the right weather aligns, spectacular morning flights can occur. Limited participation. Contact Pete Jacobson for more details.

Outer Cape Cod, co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club

Saturday, October 1, 2022, 6:00 AM

Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857,

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Meet: Commuter lot behind McDonald's at intersection of Rts. 3 & 6, Scusset Rd. exit in Bourne

From this meeting place, some may carpool to the Outer Cape. This trip usually tallies around 100 species from Canada Goose to House Sparrow, many times missing both!

Webb Memorial State Park, Weymouth

Sunday, October 2, 2022, 7:00 AM, morning

Dan O'Brien: 781-351-9444,

danielkobrien107@gmail.com

Meet: Main parking, 371 River St., North Weymouth

We will look for migrant songbirds in the thickets and weedy patches in the park, especially sparrows and warblers. We'll also scan the surrounding bay for early returning waterfowl like scoters. Thrushes and waxwings are possible snacking on the juniper trees. With a little luck in the weather and wind patterns, Webb has "fallout" and "morning flight" potential.

Whale and Seabird Watch

Saturday, October 8, 2022, 11:30 AM

Brian Vigorito: 339-235-8219, bmvig21@gmail.com

Meet: Plymouth Harbor, 10 Town Wharf, Plymouth

We will look for seabirds aboard the Capt. John's whale watch boat. At this time of year, we may see Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Fulmars or jaegers, in addition to lingering shearwaters. *Pre-order your tickets for the 12 PM boat at: <https://www.captjohn.com>

Bare Cove Park, Hingham

Sunday, October 9, 2022, 8:00AM, morning

Kathy Rawdon: 617-605-3773, rawdonk@comcast.net

Meet: Entrance to Bare Cove Park across from the West Hingham T station on Fort Hill St., then drive about .5 miles to parking lot

Several mile walk on mostly flat surfaces for approximately 3 hours. Looking for later season migrants. This park is close to the ocean and could have some surprises.

Marsh Stomp

Monday, October 10, 2022, 6:30 AM, all day

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346,

natemarchessault@gmail.com

Meet: Target parking lot in Wareham Target Plaza, 44 Tobey Rd., Wareham

Let's spend the day working our way down Buzzards Bay in search of any marsh birds that may be using the area as a stopover site. Bitterns, rails, and Saltmarsh, Nelson's, and Seaside Sparrows are possible. Waterproof/knee-high boots recommended.

Turkey Hill/Weir River Farm/Whitney-Thayer Woods, Hingham

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 8:00AM, morning

Sally Avery: 781-383-6043, dandsavery@comcast.net

Meet: Rte. 3A entrance to Trustees of Reservations Turkey Hill

A four mile loop walk through diverse habitat in search of migrants.



Eurasian Wigeon, Acushnet Sawmill, January 2022

Photo: Bonnie Tate

Leland Farm, East Bridgewater

Sunday, October 16, 2022, 8:00 AM, morning

Pete Jacobson: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Meet: Adjacent to 295 North Central Street, East Bridgewater:
<https://goo.gl/maps/Wij91Cbt4QSGZ4A49>

It's sparrow season. We'll sort through the variety in these fields. Rubber boots are recommended.

Manomet, Plymouth

Monday, October 17, 2021, 7:30 AM

Lisa Schibley: lschibley@manomet.org

Meet: 125 Manomet Point Road at Holmes Farm parking area (near kiosk before first gate)

We will walk the farm road and the mowed paths along the wood edge looking for migrants. After birding for an hour or so, we'll walk up together to meet Evan and the banders at Manomet Headquarters. The banders will guide us on a net run, and then we can watch the banding and release, learning about Manomet and the work they do for bird conservation. After the demonstration, participants will have a chance to bird the bluff and garden.



Belted Kingfisher, Marion, MA, November 2021

Photo: Moe Molander

Sandy Neck, Barnstable

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 6:30 AM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346,

natemarchessault@gmail.com

Meet: Sandy Neck Beach Parking, end of Sandy Neck Rd.

Sandy Neck is a fantastic spot for watching migrant seabirds within Cape Cod Bay. With the right winds, we could really hit it big! Either way scoters and other sea ducks will be on the move in some capacity. We'll spend the early portion of the trip scoping the ocean and, for the intrepid, we'll walk out on the beach and head back by the marsh trail. How far we go depends on a variety of factors including weather conditions and tide.

Tubbs Meadow and Pembroke Ponds

Saturday, October 29, 2022, 8:00 AM

Brian Vigorito: 339-235-8219, bmvig21@gmail.com

Meet: Tubbs Meadow (Dirt parking, 139 Monroe St., Pembroke)

In the morning, we will explore Tubbs Meadow Conservation Area, a small property made up of former cranberry bogs. We should have a good mix of sparrows, waterfowl, and perhaps a lingering shorebird or two. This portion will be about a 2 mile walk on flat, easy trails. Afterwards, we will visit the various ponds in and around Pembroke. All of the regularly occurring freshwater ducks are possible here and we can scout the area for any interesting species for the duck count. This portion will be mostly short stops with very little walking.

Passanageset Park, Quincy

Saturday, November 5, 2022, 7:30 AM, morning

Vin Zollo: 508-641-2523, vzollo1@yahoo.com

Meet: (*new spot) Broad Meadows Middle School parking lot, 50 Calvin Rd., Quincy

A search for lingering fall migrants like sparrows and hawks in this urban open space. We'll walk on mostly level terrain for a couple of miles. Waterproof boots are recommended because morning dew is a possibility and we may walk the edge of the saltmarsh too.

Provincetown

Sunday, November 6, 2022, 6:30 AM

Dan Burton: 781-492-6070, danielburton783@yahoo.com

& Rachel Baum: 631-294-4248, rachel.e.baum@gmail.com

Meet: Race Point Beach parking lot, end of Race Point Rd. There should be a nice variety of migrant seabirds in the area. Birding will kick off at Race Point Beach in Provincetown for a solid few hours. Later stops will be made as we make our way back. Gulls, terns, ducks, loons, grebes, shearwaters, and alcids are possible.

Newburyport and Vicinity

Saturday, November 12, 2022, 8:00AM

Mike Emmons: 978-694-4080,

michael.emmons@comcast.net

Meet: Lot 1 parking area, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport

Expect to find late migrants, wintering ducks and raptors.

Annual Plymouth County Duck Count

Saturday, November 19, 2022

Brian Vigorito: 339-235-8291, bmvig21@gmail.com and

Pete Jacobson: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Let's fan out and count all the ducks in Plymouth County freshwater lakes and ponds. This count is planned when waterfowl are at their peak numbers and diversity. Contact Brian by email no later than November 13th so you can be assigned to a team and given a place to meet on Saturday.

Leader's Choice, South of Boston, co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club

Saturday, November 26, 2022

Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857,

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Glenn will look at recent bird sightings and choose a venue.

Contact leader for time and place after November 17th.

Foothills Preserve, Plymouth

Monday, November 28, 2022, 8:00 AM, morning

Lisa Schibley: lisa@zoompuppy.com

Meet: 85 Beaver Dam Road, parking lot across from Tidmarsh Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

Explore this new preserve at the base of the Pinehills with small pond, grassy areas and woodland edges. After exploring the preserve, we will have the option of either hiking up into Pinehills or exploring Tidmarsh across the street.

West Dennis Beach, Dennis

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 8:00 AM morning

Jonathan Glover: 508-813-8668, jglover76@gmail.com

Meet: East end of the parking lot entrance, Davis Beach Rd. West Dennis Beach offers a nice mix of salt marsh, dunes, shore and thickets. Join us for a walk along the marsh and thickets and a return walk along the beach. We'll have a chance to see some overwintering warblers, shorebirds and waterfowl. Lesser Black-backed Gull has been regular here.

Osprey Overlook Park/Great Esker Park, Weymouth

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 7:00 AM, morning

Dan O'Brien: 781-351-9444, danielkobrien107@gmail.com

Meet: Osprey Overlook Park, 87 Wharf St., Weymouth

We'll start off by scanning the flocks of Canada Geese for any rare waterfowl and check the tidal estuary for other waterfowl and lingering shorebirds. We'll walk the loop trail and into the south end of Great Esker Park, getting an expansive view of the Back River at low tide. We'll backtrack to the parking lot and drive to stop #2 at the Elva Rd. entrance of Great Esker Park. From there we'll walk along the "great esker" and then hike on some of the smaller eskers on the various meandering trails, looking for woodland birds and lingering migrants. We'll keep an eye out for Belted Kingfisher and seaducks in the Back River. This portion of the walk can be moderately difficult in places, so sturdy hiking shoes with good grip are recommended.



Downy Woodpecker, Fairhaven, 2021

Photo: Carol Molander

Christmas Bird Count

Quincy Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17, 2022

Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857,

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Marshfield Christmas Bird Count

Sue MacCallum: 781-837-9400, suemacs1051@gmail.com

Taunton/Middleboro Christmas Bird Count

Jim Sweeney: 401-465-6668, assawompsett@yahoo.com

Plymouth Christmas Bird Count

Trevor Lloyd-Evans: 508-224-6521, [tlloyd-](mailto:tlloyd-evans@manomet.org)

evans@manomet.org

Please call leaders for exact dates and please consider helping out with these annual counts. More people are always needed!



Snowy Owl, Duxbury Beach, December 2021

Photo: Bonnie Tate

Death March and Death Stroll

Saturday, January 7, 2023, 8:00 AM

Wayne Petersen: 781-206-5716, wpetersen@massaudubon.org

and Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346,

natemarchessault@gmail.com

Meet: Commuter lot behind McDonald's at intersection of Rts. 3 & 6, Scusset Road exit, Bourne

Mid-winter is an ideal season to see a plethora of seafowl, unusual gulls, alcids, as well as traditional visitors such as Snow Bunting and possibly even a Northern Shrike or Snowy Owl. We will form two groups. Nate's group will walk the traditional Death March hike to the rip at Race Point Beach. For those wanting to get their sea watch fix but skip the hike, Wayne's group will focus on sea watching and otherwise that can be done not far from the car. Both groups will meet up around lunchtime and bird down the Outer Cape on the way back in the afternoon.

Plum Island & Vicinity

Saturday, January 14, 2023, 8:30 AM

Mike Emmons: 978-694-4080,

michael.emmons@comcast.net

Meet: Lot 1 parking area, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport

Expect to find wintering ducks, raptors and possibly winter finches.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 6:00 PM

This year will be a little more business than usual as we are going virtual! (Our belts will thank us.) Meeting will consist of our open planning meeting followed by our annual meeting. Registration for the event can be found on our

Events Page:

<https://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc/events>

Interior Plymouth County

Saturday, January 21, 2023, 8:00 AM

Pete Jacobson: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Meet: Honey Dew Donuts, 1485 Pleasant St., Bridgewater (near junction of Rts. 24 & 104 in front of Home Depot)

We will explore the area around Middleboro and Bridgewater and search for any rarities sighted during the recent Christmas Bird Count.

Scituate to Plymouth, co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 7:30 AM

Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857,

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Meet: Stop & Shop parking, Rte. 139 at Rte. 3, Pembroke

A full day of exploring, starting with the thickets of Marshfield, then the coast from Scituate south to Plymouth to check out the ponds for wintering ducks, perhaps ending the day looking for owls. 70 species are possible.

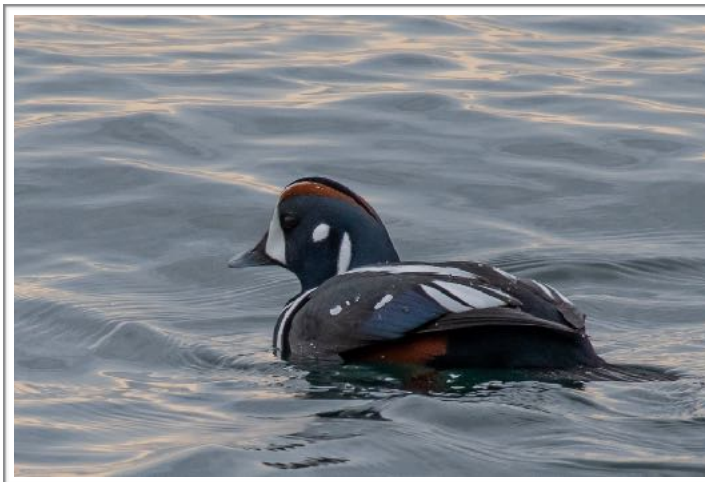
Hull

Saturday, February 11, 2023, 8:00 AM morning

Paul Fitzgerald: 781-749-9712, pfitzgerald17@verizon.net

Meet: Dunkin' at 1 Bay Street, Hull.

A search for sea ducks, possibly Black Guillemot and lingering/wintering land birds should make for an enjoyable trip.



Harlequin Duck, Manomet Point, February 2022

Photo: Bonnie Tate

Cumberland Farm Fields, Halifax/Middleborough & Environs

Sunday, February 19, 2023, 8:00 AM, morning

Pete Jacobson: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Meet: Large Sycamore tree on Rte. 105 (near 104 Thompson St.) Middleborough

Late winter search for open country wintering birds. Raptors usually show well here. In addition, we may have the first wave of early spring migrant waterfowl and blackbirds. We'll mostly poke around the perimeter of the field and do some short walks on dirt roads. Rubber boots are recommended.

Fairhaven

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 8:00 AM

Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857,

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Meet: McDonald's, intersection of Rte. 6 (aka Huttleston Ave.) and Alden Rd., 14 Plaza Way (near Staples)

Explore the thickets and bays of Fairhaven. At this date we could see the beginnings of spring migration, as blackbirds should be back on the south coast of Massachusetts.

Mill Brook Bogs Breeding Bird Survey

The SSBC Mill Brook Bogs Breeding Bird Survey was held Sunday, July 3rd, 2022, shifted from Saturday due to a forecast that called for rain and thunderstorms. This proved to be the right move as a windy, gloomy, rainy Saturday morning contrasted with beautiful sunny weather and calm conditions Sunday. All in all there was a nice turnout with 14 participants who split into 3 teams to survey distinct portions of this deceptively large Wildlife Management Area. The three groups surveyed for a combined 16 hours 40 minutes and traveled 18.64 miles. We found a total of 1508 individuals of 72 species. Notable observations are highlighted in **bold**.

Species (totals in parens)

Mute Swan (1)
Mallard (1)
Wild Turkey (6)
Mourning Dove (41)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (4)
Black-billed Cuckoo (2)
Chimney Swift (8)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (5)
Killdeer (3)
Spotted Sandpiper (2)
Herring Gull (1)
Great Blue Heron (5)
Osprey (2)
Barred Owl (1)
Red-bellied Woodpecker (7)
Downy Woodpecker (17)
Hairy Woodpecker (4)
Northern Flicker (9)
Eastern Wood-Pewee (6)
Eastern Phoebe (16)
Great Crested Flycatcher (12)
Eastern Kingbird (4)
Warbling Vireo (1)
Red-eyed Vireo (6)
Blue Jay (21)
American Crow (9)
Black-capped Chickadee (84)
Tufted Titmouse (40)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (8)
Purple Martin (2)

Tree Swallow (44)
Bank Swallow (55)
Barn Swallow (33)
Red-breasted Nuthatch (7)
White-breasted nuthatch (11)
Brown Creeper (4)
House Wren (9)
Carolina Wren (4)
Gray Catbird (75)
Northern Mockingbird (1)
Eastern Bluebird (10)
Veery (48)
Hermit Thrush (2)
Wood Thrush (6)
American Robin (76)
Cedar Waxwing (30)
House Sparrow (2)
House Finch (2)
Red Crossbill (1)
American Goldfinch (22)
Chipping Sparrow (23)
Field Sparrow (11)

Song Sparrow (17)
Swamp Sparrow (5)
Eastern Towhee (168)
Orchard Oriole (7)
Baltimore Oriole (18)
Red-winged Blackbird (56)
Brown-headed Cowbird (20)
Common Grackle (86)
Ovenbird (112)
Northern Waterthrush (1)
Black-and-white Warbler (14)
Common Yellowthroat (70)
Yellow Warbler (12)
Pine Warbler (45)
Prairie Warbler (33)
Black-throated Green Warbler (1)
Scarlet Tanager (16)
Northern Cardinal (16)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1)
Indigo Bunting (6)
Total # of Individuals (1508)



Young House Wrens, Mill Brook Bogs, July 2022

Photo: Lisa Schibley

Bank Swallow Colony, Mill Brook Bogs, July 2022

Photo: Paul McPartland

SOUTH SHORE BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Everyone interested in birds and wildlife is welcome to join the South Shore Bird Club by completing the form below with your name and email. Membership dues are **\$10 per household** but if you aren't able to contribute at this time, that's OK. Additional contributions are welcome but please note that contributions are not tax-deductible. If you're not sure about the status of your dues payment, contact Mike Nolan at menolan1700@gmail.com

Checks payable to: South Shore Bird Club

Mail to: South Shore Bird Club c/o Mike Nolan, 30 Rockland St. Dartmouth, MA 02748

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal Membership

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ Added Contribution \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

☐ For continuing members please check if this is a new email.

Please make sure your email address is correct as SSBC newsletters are sent electronically.

****Thanks for your membership with SSBC!****

SSBC Google Group: Members are encouraged to join this web-based site, where impromptu birding trips are listed and bird-related updates and discussions are posted. Contact Nate to join.

Field Trips: Our outings try to acquaint birders with local birding areas and share the pleasures of finding and identifying birds throughout the year. The club takes pride in introducing new birders to the wonders of nature. The leader may cancel a trip due to unsafe weather conditions. Call the leader the night before if the forecast is for bad weather.

CLUB OFFICERS, 2022

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Please check the SSBC website for updates or weather cancellations before trips.
<https://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>