

S O U T H S H O R E
WATERFOWLERS

A S S O C I A T I O N , I N C .



MARCH 2015

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

SSWA — Waterfowler's to the Rescue

In late February, it was brought to the attention of our officers that there was a severe die-off of waterfowl around Long Island. Craig Kessler suggested that the Feed Fund be activated (see page 3). We all were on board to help out the waterfowl, but were hesitant. Several years ago we were told by a prominent law enforcement officer that it is illegal to feed waterfowl in Suffolk County. Period. Because we were unable to feed them, we changed the Feed Fund to the Emergency Waterfowl Assistance Fund (EWAF) to help waterfowl in ways other than feeding.

(Side Note: At a meeting upstate our President, Ron Sineo, was talking with a waterfowl biologist from a leading waterfowl organization and she told him it was a waste of time and money to feed waterfowl. That it was a natural occurrence and at certain times you have a die-off and the birds should rebound. It is their policy that they do not spend money on feeding waterfowl in this manner.)

Craig informed us that Red Oster had contacted the Feds and they said it was OK. I contacted Captain Tim Huss to verify. He said it was OK to feed waterfowl ONLY when there is NO HUNTING SEASON in progress. This is much different than totally illegal. So calls were made and the feeding took off.

Within 24 hours, 2 tons of feed was authorized for Craig to purchase. We got 20 50-pound bags from him and he distributed the other 60 bags to East End professionals. At the March meeting, our members authorized the expenditure of funds to see this process through. Past President, John Adams, had notified me that he had a connection with a farmer and could get it in bulk at a lower price. And so it began: picking up corn, break it down, shipping, and distributing it to members and groups for feeding. Some of those groups we donated corn to, or helped out, are: Southampton Town Trustees, Town of Oyster Bay-Bay Constables, Town of Huntington Harbor Masters, Boy & Girl Scout Troops, and many concerned waterfowl members.

To date, it has been calculated that OVER 41 tons of feed has been dispersed. **41 TONS.** If you want to see what a ton bag looks like, go to sswa.org and in the gallery section look under "feeding program." You can see the progression from dead, starved, or barely able to walk birds to ones flying around waiting to eat.

I am extremely proud of the work that Craig, Red, John, Ron, and myself, along with countless numbers of hard workers, and dedicated conservationists who took the time and effort to venture out in extremely cold weather to help out our dear feathered friends. I also want to thank the members who helped me man the tables at the Decoy and Gun Shows. We helped get the word out about what we are doing, as well as raising over \$500.00 to start replenishing the EWAF. These funds will ensure that we can continue this great work in the years to come.

Anyone interested in donating can send a check payable to **SSWA** and mail to: **P.O. Box 217, Brightwaters, NY 11718.**

The waterfowl say "Thank You" for helping them survive.

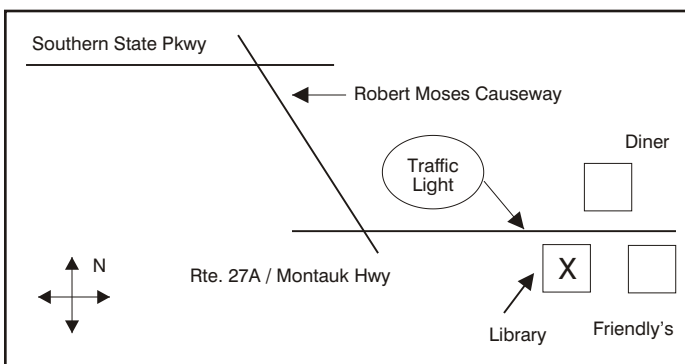
South Shore Waterfowlers

Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler

The South Shore Waterfowlers meet at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month from September through April. If the 1st Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place on an alternate date (to be announced). (A library holiday is the same as a U.S. Postal holiday.)

Meetings are held on the first floor conference room of the Brightwaters/Bayshore Library located on Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A) in Brightwaters/Bayshore (see map below).

For additional information, please call John (631) 874-7459 or Ron (631) 862-8518.



The President's Corner Announces . . .

Saturday, April 11, 2015 11th Annual SSWA Dinner at Fisherman's Catch Restaurant in Point Lookout

Who would have thought "A FRIENDLY GET TOGETHER WITH THE WIVES" would have grown into the yearly event it is now. It's a great night out with your fellow members and their "Better Halves."

It's from 6 to 10 p.m. Included are pass-around hors d'oeuvres, meal appetizer, salad, entrée, and dessert, plus a chance to win a gun. Beer, wine, and soda is also included. All for only \$60.00 per person. Space is almost at capacity. Call Curt at 631-661-0379 to check availability and reserve your seat and then send a check made payable to SSWA to: Curt Matzinger, 32 Magro Drive, N. Babylon, NY 11703. **Checks MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR AT THE APRIL MEETING.** No walk-ins. Remember to bring some items for the Chinese auction. A good time is to be had by all. See you there.

Waterfowl Benefit Fundraiser

Saturday, May 23 – 1 p.m. (Raindate: Sunday, May 24 – 1 p.m.) Windswept Marina Atlantic Ave., East Moriches

\$45.00 per person

Wrist band includes:

BBQ – Clams – Oysters – Beer – Soda
AND 3 Raffle Tickets (extra tickets available)
Many BIG raffle prizes

This fundraiser is to replenish funds used this past February while feeding the ducks and geese that were starving to death. The SSWA wants to make sure the funds will be available for the next harsh winter we encounter. This will ensure the survival of the waterfowl so they will be in good health and able to migrate north to breed.

For more information and to make reservations, please contact John at (631) 618-5728.

South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President Ron Sineo
631-862-8518
- 1st Vice President John Adams
631-618-5728
- 2nd Vice President Erik Tallbe, Jr.
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- Secretary Ron Pliszak
631-902-2220
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Club Dinner & BBQ Chairman. . . . Curt Matzinger
613-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613
- Membership Bob Dasch
631-472-0683

Why E-Mail is Important to the SSWA

by Ron Sineo

Today, e-mail is a household word. It has been around for more than 20 years now, and just about every electronic communications gadget is capable of sending and receiving e-mails. If SSWA were forced to use the "snail mail" (US Postal Service) for all member communications it would put quite a burden on our overhead. Let's do some arithmetic. The current postage on a postcard is \$.34 (without the card itself). *Assuming you can still get a penny postcard*, a one postcard mailing to 200 members would cost \$70. Just 10 such mailings a year to members would cost the club \$700. In the 10 years that I have been the keeper of the e-mail list, if we had to mail just once a month to our members, postcard mailings would have cost the club a whopping \$7,000.

You may think this is a foolish topic but, while our membership numbers fluctuate a bit from year to year, we have had at least 200 members in each of the last 10 years, and in most years our numbers were closer to 250. Yet, in all that time, we have never had more than about 120 members on our e-mail list. This suggests that we are only getting 50% of our members to provide us with their e-mail contact information.

A recent survey suggested that well over 94% of the US population now has both internet access and e-mail addresses. I have to believe that the SSWA represents a typical cross section of our population. It follows that if we have at least 200 members, only about 6%, or about 12 members have no direct e-mail. 94% or 188 of them have e-mail addresses. So I find myself asking why our club only has 104 current e-mail addresses on file. I have to conclude that some of our members are reluctant to provide it to us.

Are they afraid of receiving too much "spam" from us? We send out on average, about 1 message per month. These messages can alert you, the member, to changes in meeting times and dates, the passing of a member, provide you with updates on events related to waterfowling, and much more. As mentioned above, if we were forced to send postcards instead, it would be very costly for the club. On the other hand, e-mails are free! (sending a postcard also involves someone writing it out, or worse, paying printing charges to get a message put on it...both expensive and labor intensive). 200 e-mails can be sent with a single key stroke.

This is an easy way to support your club. Provide us with your e-mail address. As you are reading this, if you realize that you have not yet provided SSWA with your e-mail address, please consider taking a moment to send it to me in an e-mail. My e-mail address is duckboater@gmail.com.

DEC Revised Mute Swan Management Plan

by Ron Sineo

On Monday, March 9th, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released a revised mute swan management plan with significant changes. These changes were made as a result of hundreds of diverse public comments that were made in response to the first draft of the plan (which was released back in December 2013). DEC is accepting public comments on the new revised plan from now through April 24. The mute swan is a non-native, invasive species brought to North America to beautify estates in the late 1800s, but birds that escaped or were released established feral populations that are competing with native wildlife for aquatic food plants and nesting areas. The revised draft Management Plan for Mute Swans in New York State is available on the DEC website at:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7076.html>

In summary, changes to the part of the plan that impacts Long Island are mostly to shift the focus away

from the use of lethal means on adult birds as a first step approach to population control. Instead, "non-lethal" means will be tried. Egg addling will be employed in an attempt to reduce the number of juvenile birds, while permits will be issued for individuals to possess Swans in captivity. In order to get a permit, an individual must make a commitment to have the adult birds sterilized, or else to only keep same sex birds. Captive birds will further be required to have their wings clipped so as not to be able to fly away. Apparently, the DEC will capture wild birds to fill the permit requests. It is hoped that these methods will result in a significant reduction of birds in the wild population. This approach will be re-evaluated in one or two years. If it shows enough promise, it will continue to be the primary method of Swan control downstate. If it does not show positive results, then lethal means (including hunting) may need to be used. The public comment period for the revised plan extends through April 24th, and comments can be sent to: Wildlife@dec.ny.gov

KICKSTARTING THE “EMERGENCY FEED FUND” AFTER 37 YEARS

by Craig Kessler

It was around February 23, long after the duck and goose season had ended for most of us, when Red Oster called me about the cold weather that was persisting. Red spends nearly every day “watching” the bay and the birds, so when he asked why no one was considering helping the birds by feeding, it certainly raised a valid question. That’s what started the wheels turning. I had just finished up helping the DEC trap black ducks at Flanders for two weeks and my observations certainly supported Red’s contention that these birds were really hungry. Kelly Hamilton and her crew had already reached their annual goal of banding 250 black ducks because it was so easy. At Flanders the birds literally ran into the trap and just sat there all day to gorge as much corn as possible. Listening to Channel 12 News every night the same message resonated that this would be the coldest February on record—with only one day all month going above 32 degrees.

Red volunteered to make some calls about the actual legality of feeding waterfowl outside of the season dates and I said I would make some calls to other professional waterfowl people—either guides, or land managers—but people who knew what they were seeing on the ground every day. I give Red the credit for getting to the right answer—politely and tactfully I might add—because this is where the apparent log jam was created with the SSWA Emergency Feed Fund several years ago. No one is to blame but this needed to be fixed and we found it is NOT ILLEGAL to feed waterfowl per se. There are certain scenarios where it is defined as illegal and the SSWA had been given the impression that they should err on the side of caution.

Armed with Red’s research, I called about 10 guys I knew out east, where I now live, AND our very highly regarded former waterfowl biologist Steve Sanford, who most of you younger guys have now met through his recent appearance at the January SSWA meeting. Steve was totally supportive of feeding waterfowl under these conditions and mystified as to why we were not. That’s all I needed. I called the “professionals” back and by that night we had raised nearly \$2000 and had taken orders for 6 tons of corn for the next morning. Most of us involved are retired or devote a great deal of time to the ducks so we knew what had to happen. One participant even met me at the dock with his clam boat running and the ducks were receiving some assistance by mid morning. The program grew from there and elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the positive actions of the SSWA, the cooperation of several towns on Long Island, and the publicity surrounding the entire effort.

But let me just close with the summary that the guys I called had an average total of about 60 years each of waterfowling knowledge and COMMITMENT to these waterfowl resources that we all hold dear. Anyone who doesn’t believe that experience is the best teacher—has a lot of experience they need to yet gain. You will be hearing some future thoughts on this subject before we get to next winter. Stay tuned.



Jon Swezey

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2015 Winter Flyway Report

by Ron Sineo

The 2015 winter Atlantic Flyway Technical Meetings took place from February 22 through the 27 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware this year. As usual, Paul Padding of the USFWS began his address to the group with bleak budget reports and projected staffing needs for the USFWS for the coming year. They continue to have to tighten their belts, since program and service costs keep climbing, while new budget years bring fewer dollars allocated to accomplish the same work. A highlight of the negative impact this is having can be seen in the plan to re-design the mid-winter survey. It seems it is now too costly to continue the mid-winter "cruise" surveys which have been done annually for many species. Fortunately, the service recognizes the importance of the mid-winter Brant survey, and that will continue. Most of the others, however, will be restructured so that it will probably take 3 years to collect the same data that once was collected annually.

The service conducts a parts collection "wing bee" each year, where hunters are asked to mail in a wing from the birds they shoot. The biologists are then able to tell the age of the bird from the wing, and this gives them a harvest age ratio or an estimate of the number of juvenile birds per adult in the harvest. For abundant species there should be more juveniles than adults. For one thing, 2 or more ducklings usually survive from each nesting attempt, and for another, juveniles are not as wary and more easily become part of the hunter's bag. So it follows that with most species that have good production of juveniles, the hunter's bag will have more juveniles in it than adults. Most of the species in our flyway are doing very well, and we will no doubt have a liberal package again in the 2015-2016 hunting season. The species of concern continue to be Black Ducks, Scaup, and Brant. This past season, the Harvest Age Ratio for Black Ducks was only 1.08 (10.8 juveniles to every 10 adults) the ratio for Scaup was only 0.96 (9.6 juveniles to every 10 adults, and the ratio for Brant was really low at only 0.26 (2.6 juveniles for every 10 adults). So while the populations of Black Ducks and Scaup seem to be just about holding their own, Brant populations are not. The mid-winter survey this year only counted 111,300 birds. So it looks like this will be the 3rd year in a row that we will have a restricted season (30 days/2 birds per day) for Brant.

Clark Nissley, a graduate student from the University of Delaware, went up near the Arctic Circle last summer to study a nesting population of Atlantic Brant on Southampton Island. This area, although small, has been a well-known study area for Brant since 1979. That first year, 455 Brant nests were counted. Now, 35 years later, Clark and his group could only account for 44 Brant nests. Instead of more Brant, they found 530 Cackling goose nests, 240 Snow goose nests, and 50 with Ross's geese. Cameras were set up to monitor the 44 Brant nests from May through July. In the end, only 2 Brant nests were productive. The other 42 failed to produce surviving juveniles. Their cameras showed that predation was a major factor. Foxes were responsible for 23 of the 42 failed nests! So you see, at least in this one small breeding area, juvenile production was almost non-existent. Even though hunter harvest is not the cause of a declining Brant population, it is the one thing that can easily be controlled. The Management plan for Brant indicates that if the population (mid-winter) falls below 100,000 birds, the season will be closed. My sense of this is that if we don't see some kind of turn-around in the next 2 years, we will probably face a closed season for Brant.

Another major area of concern continues to be Sea Ducks. The Sea Duck Joint Venture has completed its study. They have announced that the probability that we are over-harvesting Scoter is great. They place the probability for Black Scoter at 31%, for Surf Scoter at 44%, and for White Winged Scoter at 59%. Since Scoter are managed as one large group instead of three separate species (it is difficult to tell species apart on the wing, especially the females), the weakest population numbers will drive the restrictions that will be imposed on Scoters. Eider Ducks have an over harvest probability of 88% and Long Tailed Ducks are at 87%. These numbers are alarming, and will surely result in restrictions to Sea Duck Seasons and Bag limits. There are two reasons why implementing these restrictions will be delayed for this next season. The first is that Canada is now on a 2-year regulatory cycle, and they will not change any regulations before the 2016-2017 season. The second is because outfitters and guides routinely book their clients 6-9 months in advance, and it would be a difficult call to restrict the number of days for this coming season. Rest assured that this will not be the case for 2016-2017. I believe we will see a serious reduction in hunting days for Sea Ducks by the 2016 season. My guess is that they will insist on no special season, and just fold the hunting of Sea Ducks into the regular duck season of 60 days. This will shorten the current season length by 47 days. As for bag limits, 7 Sea Ducks a day will become a thing of the past. Eiders and Long Tailed Ducks will certainly be reduced *below* a 6 bird daily limit, and Scoters, which are already capped at 4 birds per day, may see a 3 or even a 2 bird daily bag.

Lastly, the biologists are looking at constructing a new template for harvest management in the Atlantic Flyway. For many years, the type of hunting package we have (liberal, moderate, or restricted) has been dependent only on the population of Eastern Mallards. The new approach they are investigating is called a Multi-stock management approach. It will rely not just on one species, but on the combined populations of 5 species in the Atlantic Flyway. Those species are most likely mallards, wood ducks, common goldeneyes, ring necks, and green wing teal. As this new plan takes shape, I will continue to report the details and keep you up to date.

In closing, let me state the obvious. The Atlantic Flyway has been hard hit by terrible storms in the past few years (i.e., Superstorm Sandy, etc.) and these storms have had a dramatic negative impact on our wetland areas where ducks and geese expect to winter. This current winter has been one of the coldest on record, causing bays and saltwater marshes up and down the Northeast to freeze over. Not only does this make for starvation conditions for the birds, it will also limit the survivors' abilities to feed and bulk up for the long migration back to the breeding grounds in the spring. Some hens may never reach the breeding grounds, and will die on the way because they lack the stamina to reach the finish line. Hens that arrive malnourished and exhausted will be less likely to undertake nest building, so this will result in lower juvenile production and survival. These factors are likely to translate into some difficult decisions being made in the future, with respect to season lengths and bag limits.

Waterfowl in the New York State Wildlife Action Plan

*by Joe Racette**

In 2001 the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law, initiating the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program. The primary goal of the SWG Program is to prevent additional species from being listed as threatened or endangered by implementing conservation actions before the species becomes critically imperiled. In order to receive SWG funding, states were required to complete a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) in 2006. The NY CWCS developed a list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), assessed threats to SGCN and their habitats, and described conservation strategies, monitoring plans, and public outreach efforts. To remain eligible for SWG funding, states are required to update their wildlife conservation plans at least every 10 years. The title of this updated plan is the New York State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

The NY CWCS listed 537 SGCN, including American black duck, Blue-winged teal, Common goldeneye, and Ruddy duck as breeding waterfowl, and Atlantic Brant, Black scoter, Surf scoter, White-winged scoter, Common eider, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Harlequin duck, Long-tailed duck, and Northern pintail as wintering water birds. To update the Wildlife Action Plan, DEC staff prepared a species assessment for each of the 537 SGCN, plus an additional 57 species nominated for evaluation as SGCN. The species assessments identified population status and trends, and this information was input to a SGCN Categorization model developed by New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University. The model categorized species as SGCN, High Priority SGCN, Species of Potential Conservation Need (not enough known about the species status to determine if it should be a SGCN), Extirpated, and non-SGCN.

There was only one change to waterfowl SGCN status based on the model results: Atlantic Brant was removed from the SGCN list as the population is considered stable despite the short-term decline due to poor nesting success for the past 3 years. DEC waterfowl biologists reviewed the model results and recommended only two changes: moving American black duck from SGCN to high

priority SGCN, and moving Greater Scaup to SGCN from Species of Potential Conservation Need. The other waterfowl species also continue to be listed as SGCN. We are now working to identify conservation actions to include in the SWAP. The actions for waterfowl will include continuing surveys of breeding and wintering populations, and restoration of degraded habitats.

Some have questioned including game species on the SGCN list, but these designations are not incompatible. The most common reason species are on the SGCN list is that their population is declining, **but loss of habitat, not hunting**, is the cause of the decline of the waterfowl and most other game species on the SGCN list. There are well-established and robust mechanisms to evaluate the effects of hunting on wildlife populations, and modify harvest levels based on the data. **The SGCN list and the SWAP** will identify species for which conservation actions are recommended, but **will not recommend any changes to our current management of game species**.

For more information on development of the State Wildlife Action Plan contact Joe Racette at joe.racette@dec.ny.gov or (518) 402-8933.

**Editor's note:* Joe Racette is a wildlife ecologist with the NYSDEC Division of Fish Wildlife and Marine Resources

Spring Farm Hunt

Due to the lack of numbers of interested members, the hunt was called off. We are looking to put one together for late September. More info to follow in the June newsletter.

Reminder — April Elections

The April meeting is when we have our elections for next year. Anyone interested in running for an office, contact Curt at (631) 661-0379 so he can check your eligibility and place you on the slate.

Slate of officers so far:

Pres. – Ron Sineo	1st VP – John Adams
2nd VP – Ron Pliszak	Treas. – Curt Matzinger
Sec. – Erik Tallbe, Jr.	

Hope to see you at the April meeting.

TALKING ABOUT DOGS

“Dead bird, good, back” — The Blind Retrieve

by George Grivas

Everyone is quiet. The ducks cup their wings. “Take ‘em.” You shoot and drop a bird. The dog is sent to retrieve a crippled duck and while swimming out for the bird doesn’t see a second lightly hit bird fly out a bit and then suddenly hits the water. How will the dog retrieve a bird he hasn’t seen fall? If the dog has been taught the blind retrieve you will get that bird.

The elements of a blind retrieve are taking a line, stopping to sit on one blast of the whistle, and taking a cast (hand signal) to the bird. These are links in a behavior chain. They are taught separately and then combined to produce the blind retrieve.

Lining is taught by using pattern blinds. The dog knows where the dummy is even though he has not seen it fall. I like to use a white bucket to teach this. Turn a white bucket upside down, drop a few bumpers while saying dead bird, heel your dog back 25 yards, sit him at heel and say “Dead bird, good, back.” The dog should run to the pile of bumpers and retrieve. Repeat. Extend your distance on subsequent retrieves by 20 yards each time until you reach 100 yards. You are teaching your dog to leave your side and run quite a distance for a bird he has not seen fall. After several sessions remove the bucket and send to the spot.

Stopping the dog on the whistle is another link in the chain. This is taught as an obedience exercise. Assuming you have already taught a verbal sit command blow the whistle, say sit, and the dog will sit. Reward the sit. After several repetitions the dog will sit on just the hearing the whistle. I start this training very early, when the pup is still quite young.

The casting pattern can be taught by using the baseball drill. You can even do this on a baseball diamond. Sit the dog at the pitcher’s mound. Walk to first base and drop a couple of bumpers. Go to home plate and face your dog. Blow the whistle, stick your right hand out to the side while taking a step in that direction and say over. The dog should retrieve the bumper. If not, you can use your fetch command. Do this for a few sessions. The left over is taught in a similar fashion by placing bumpers at third base. Do this for a few sessions. Next is the back cast. Pup sits at the pitcher’s mound, you place bumpers at second base, go to the plate, face the dog, give a whistle blast while raising your hand directly overhead and saying back. The dog should spin and make the retrieve. Again you can use your fetch command if you get a refusal.

Now we are back on the marsh. It is time to get the second bird. You have practiced numerous pattern blinds in different situations and are confident in your dog. You bring your dog to heel. Say “Dead Bird” and your dog starts to scan the area, he looks where you want him to go and you say “Good,” you place your hand over his head and say “Back!” Your dog takes your line but is a bit off. You blow the whistle and he turns to face you while treading water. You give him a right over, whistle stop him again, and give another back so that the dog gets to the bird. Everything has come together—lining, whistle stop, and casting.

It takes time to teach this but it is well worth the effort. I make two recommendations:

1. Work with someone who has experience.
2. Don’t go for the precision that the Field Trialer needs.

OK, time to train dogs!

Congratulations to Our Campsite \$400 Gift Card Winners

Brian Leslie, Anthony LaCentra, Joe DiPrima, Rich Rennhack

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Quack's Tips

- When hunting divers/sea ducks on big water, carry a black flag on a short stick with you. When you see a group flying in the distance, wave the flag a few times back & forth. Stop once they turn in your direction. From a distance, the flag will look like a dark bird flying.
- Also when hunting from your boat, carry a landing net with you to scoop your downed duck out of the water.
- If your hunting season is over, take this reminder to get your gun out of its soft case and clean it well before putting it away.
- Shop for steel ammo now for next season. Many stores will mark it down a bit to sell it now rather than keep it on their shelf until next fall.

Password Change

Once or twice a year the password for the sswa.org website is changed. The new password appears on your mailing label on your newsletter. It will be a word that doesn't usually appear on a label. The password enables you to go to locations on the website that are "member specific." That means only paid-up members can look at the info in that area. All other areas can be accessed by the general public. We have these member specific areas because we don't want members' personal info to be accessible by non-members. To log onto the website go to sswa.org, click on **Login**, enter **member** where it says Name, then enter the password where it says Password, then click **Login**. When finished looking around, remember to click **Logout**. Enjoy the website. It's yours for the viewing.

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— South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

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CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- March 27** — DU Western Suffolk, Capt. Bill's Restaurant, Ron Kee (917) 753-4054
- April 6** — Last SSWA Meeting for the season, Brightwaters Library
- April 11** — SSWA 11th Annual Dinner, Fisherman's Catch Restaurant, Point Lookout (see page 2)
- April 24** — DU North Shore, Swan Club, Stephen Melbinger (516) 429-9951
- April 29** — DU Peconic Bay Guns & Gear Event, Mattituck, Dan Goodwin, 926-7146
- May 13** — DU Eastern Suffolk, Watermill, Stephen Rempe (631) 807-2395
- May 23** — SSWA Waterfowl Benefit Fundraiser (see page 2)
- TBA** — Sporting Clays Shoots, Peconic River Sportsmen's Club, sswa.org



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