VOLUME 39. NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2009

### **NEXT MEETING**

Enid Klein

DATE:

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

TIME:

7:30 P.M.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.)

TOPIC:

SPEAKER: Captain Don Harris Hurt Not the Earth

Captain Don's PowerPoint program will show the actions of Operation Splash in cleaning the local waterways and the beautiful ecosystem in which we live. There will be discussion about how our waterways become polluted by nonsource point pollutants and how to stem the tide of pollution with community involvement. Join us!

Our guest speaker is a longtime environmentalist and freelance boat captain who has volunteered for Operation Splash for more than 18 years. OS (www.operationsplash. net) is a Freeport-based grassroots organization whose mission is "to provide a solution to the growing problem of waterfront pollution through public education and individual participation."

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. each month, Scott Oglesby expands our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

Parking Lots. In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

**^+^+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0** IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS. \$shade-grown coffee protects rainforests:

<sup></sup><sup>7</sup>+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*+\*\*\* OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\_list 

OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org 

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wendy Murbach

I wish you all a Healthy and a Happy New Year!!!!

Rarely have I made New Year's resolutions in the past; however, this New Year seems to be all about change change in the administration of our country, change in the global climate, and change in our financial institutions, all of which will greatly impact our lives and our natural environment. It feels important that I be part of this change, a small force nudging our government, our financial institutions, and our very environment toward the positive solutions that we hope to see.

One alone is not such a great force, nothing to reckon with, but there are some small actions that multiplied by each of our small participations can have massive effects. My turning off an unnecessary light bulb every time I leave a room is negligible in effect, but if all of us, 1500 South Shore Audubon members, were to do this small action, there would be a large effect. If this action were to be done daily by us all, would that not be a large saving of energy?

With this multiplier effect in mind, I have made some pro-environment resolutions for 2009 and I hope you will join me in making change possible.

- ① I will turn off unnecessary light bulbs.
- ② I will keep my thermostat at 68 degrees
- ③ I will recycle paper, plastic, and glass.
- ① I will combine errands to save emissions and gasoline.
  - ⑤ I will unplug appliances that are not being used.
- (6) I will write, e-mail, or phone a politician when there is an environmental issue at stake.
- (2) And, I will talk about environmental issues with folks who I know do not understand just what is at stake when our natural environment is degraded.

Let's see what a few small actions can do to mitigate our massive use of energy. We can be a force for change in this New Year. Go for it!!!!!

# 🖋 BIRD WALKS 🦋

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Steve Schellenger at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Feb. 1	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)	
Feb. 8	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner	
Feb. 15	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)	
Feb. 22	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner	
	(Lido Preserve too)	
Mar. 1	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge	
Mar. 8	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern	
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)	
Mar. 15	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner	
Mar. 22	Mill Pond Park	
Mar. 29	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner	
	(and Lido Preserve afterwards)	
<b>********************************</b>		

#### STOP INSANITY ISLAND!

Jim Brown

Editor's note: The mailing of this Skimmer was delayed due to our printer's unexpected vacation; if you're reading this after January 29, please see the last paragraph.

An important public meeting is scheduled for January 29 in Long Beach regarding the threatened Atlantic Sea Island Group LNG (liquefied natural gas) facility, otherwise known as "Insanity Island," which was first mentioned in the Skimmer a year ago. It is important that as many opponents of this misguided project as possible attend the public speaking/meeting session that is scheduled between 6-8 P.M. at the Long Beach Public Library, 111 W. Park Avenue, Long Beach (preceded by an informational open house starting at 4:30); tell your friends. This project will add more greenhouse gases to our atmosphere and will threaten our beaches and marine life. More information appears below, taken from a Clean Ocean Action press release. If you have questions, please contact me (432-8156), call Clean Ocean Action (732-872-0111), or visit www.cleanoceanaction.org. Like Broadwater in Long Island Sound, this project must be defeated!

The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Maritime Administration are hosting two public meetings, one on January 27 in Eatontown, NJ, and a second on January 29 in Long Beach, NY, to begin scoping for an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the official review of the proposal.

The proposed man-made island, which is nearly 14 times the size of Giants Stadium [60.5 acres at the surface, 116 to 140 acres at the base, in water 60 to 70 feet deep], is planned for 19 miles off the coast of Sea Bright, New Jersey, and 13 miles off the coast of Long Beach, New York. This same area is home to endangered species, prime fishing grounds, and will destroy underwater habi-

tat, make navigation in the busy port region difficult and more dangerous, and increase safety and security risks.

Nearly 40 New Jersey and New York organizations and six Monmouth County municipalities have signed resolutions opposing LNG projects off the coast. In addition, to date, 5,260 citizens have signed petitions against projects such as "Insanity Island."

Some of the threats groups cited include that the island will require 14 million tons of fill – 10 times the volume of the Empire State Building — and destroy marine habitat and kill marine life. Regarding LNG, groups said the foreign fossil fuel is "un-American" because it is from volatile sources like Russia, the Middle East, and Africa. Further, American sources of natural gas are cheaper and plentiful — enough to meet domestic needs for 120 years. Also, LNG is up to 40% dirtier than American natural gas and will increase carbon dioxide emissions and climate change.

"This company has no experience in LNG operations or offshore construction and has been fighting desperately in court to take away New Jersey's right to weigh-in on this insane project," said David Byer, COA Water Policy Attorney.

Written comments can be sent to the two federal agencies for consideration by **February 9**. Visit www. regulations.gov, docket number USCG-2007-28535, for more information.



Phone: (516) 931-1445 Fax: (516) 931-1467 E-Mail: lgk1cpa@aol.com

# LEONARD G. KONSKER

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

#### **★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★★**

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks led by Steve Schellenger. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Due to National Audubon's lengthy transition from one vendor to another, we were unaware of new members for the last four newsletters and don't have a list of who you are now that we have finally received an updated spreadsheet listing all members. We welcome all of you who joined during the transition as well as the most recent new members whose names are below:

members whose names are below:			
Baldwin	Nancy Burkitt		
Bellmore	Melody Henderson		
East Meadow	J. Senzatimore		
Elmont	Ajay K. Sharma		
Farmingdale	Catherine Fabiano, Edythe		
	Ferraro		
Floral Park	Roger Korford		
Garden City	Francesca Beahan, John Blondel,		
	James Dean		
Hempstead	Finklee Family		
Hicksville	Jerry Zerbini		
Inwood	James Vairo		
Levittown	Judith Carmen		
Long Beach	A. Grob		
Lynbrook	Grace Allbright, Janet McDougall		
	N. A. Goldman, Theodore A.		
	Labow, Barbara Parker		
Oceanside	Michael Layne		
Plainview	Ira Hecht, Ivo Mutaftchiev		
Point Lookout	Richard Schablin		
Seaford	The McManus Family, Gina Ryan		
	Marion Flanagan, Carmen N.		

 \$\dagger\* \dagger\* \dagger

Martinez

### JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird-watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), **February 13–16**. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, school yards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation.

Anyone can take part, from novice bird-watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.



Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify

birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends — information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists; the results are online.

The Ten Most Frequently Reported Species in the 2008 GBBC: #1 Northern Cardinal (43,936 checklists), #2 Mourning Dove, #3 Dark-eyed Junco, #4 Downy Woodpecker, #5 American Goldfinch, #6 Blue Jay, #7 House Finch, #8 Tufted Titmouse, #9 Black-capped Chickadee, #10 American Crow (26,708 checklists).

The Ten Most Numerous Species in the 2008 GBBC:#1 Snow Goose (927,059 individuals), #2 Canada Goose, #3 European Starling, #4 American Robin, #5 Common Grackle, #6 American Crow, #7 American Goldfinch, #8 Darkeyed Junco, #9 Red-winged Blackbird, #10 Mourning Dove (268,699 individuals).

Submit Your GBBC Lists to Joe, Too! See page 7.

# Socially Responsible Investing

Amy Boyle, Associate Vice President - Investments 88 Froehlich Farm Blvd., Suite 110 · Woodbury, NY 11797 516-677-5528



WACHOVIA SECURITIES

Securities and Insurance Products:

NOT INSURED BY FDIC OR ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY · MAY LOSE VALUE NOT A DEPOSIT OF OR GUARANTEED BY A BANK OR ANY BANK AFFILIATE

Wachovia Securities, LLC, Member NYSE/SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate nonbank affiliate of Wachovia Corporation. ©2007 Wachovia Securities, LLC 86666 0806-33238 12/07

# NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Raptor #3: A Close Encounter

Joe Grupp

Twice last year in this Nature Tales column I wrote of being very close to a raptor as it pursued its prey. One column was about a mature Red-tailed Hawk that missed when attacking some Rock Pigeons feeding under my feeder. The second was about an immature Red-tailed Hawk that was successful in taking a squirrel from a tree only a few yards from where I stood in Bethpage State Park. On New Year's Day 2009, I was surprised by yet another close encounter, which now becomes raptor #3 and the following nature tale.

Sometime around midmorning New Year's Day, I was sitting at my kitchen table enjoying a leisurely cup of coffee and chatting with my wife. Neither of us was paying any attention at all to the activity at our feeder, which we could readily see from where we sat. We were enjoying a simple relaxed holiday moment when out of the corner of my eye, some rapid movement attracted my attention. I quickly turned my head, looked out the window, and simultaneously shouted "Sharpie" as a Sharp-shinned Hawk glided from over our house at great speed towards the feeder.

There were a fair number of birds feeding on the feeder and others, including some pigeons, were feeding on the ground under it. In a split second, I was looking at the back

of the Sharpie, involuntarily focusing on its tail. The dark and lighter bands were vivid in appearance and offset by a very narrow white band at the end of the tail. A tail that ends straight across or almost straight across if spread out in flight is one of the diagnostic

facets of a Sharpie, and this bird's tail ended straight across even as the bird changed the angle of the tail feathers to control flight. It was a field-guide perfect tail!

All of the birds on and around the feeder exploded away from it in flight. The pigeons flew out, up, and away from the approaching hawk. They were high in the air and gone quickly. The others — a mix of sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays, etc. — flew away from the feeder and incoming hawk in three straight-line directions. Some flew to the left into a nearby leafless hedge. Others flew straight ahead from the incoming hawk into a leafless weigela bush, and others flew to the right into a more-distant hedge-shaped row of forsythia. All of the birds found perches well into the center area of the shrubs and down from the top. There they were protected by the lattice work of small branches that developed as the result of the shrubs being frequently trimmed. The branches were close enough together to prevent the hawk from getting into the center area of the shrubs, while being far enough apart so that small birds could enter.

The hawk was closing fast on the birds headed for the weigela bush on the back property line, which has a tall

solid fence along it. It was closing fast but not quite fast enough to catch a bird. When it just about reached the shrub and to avoid hitting the fence, it broke its forward motion, swooped almost vertically upward, and perched on the branch of an old apple tree almost entirely hidden from my view by another branch. I could just see the tip of the tail that appeared as straight across as if it were designed and cut by a fine instrument, the hooked beak, and part of the head as the hawk looked down on the small birds below, now protected by the branches of the shrub. In a very few seconds the hawk was off again. It sprang from the perch and with a series of strong wing beats and a glide, it picked up speed and, repeating the series of strong wing beats and a glide, it was gone from the immediate area.

It was an amazing observation that lasted just one or two seconds, or maybe less than that, until the hawk perched. It was even more amazing that I could have instinctively observed so much in so little time. It all happened so fast that the cup of coffee didn't even stand a chance of getting cold.

SSAS Post Office Statement — South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.



Explore the coast with the

# AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

SOUTH FLORIDA & EVERGLADES (Feb. 21–28). Visit best wildlife areas of S. Florida, including Flamingo & Shark River (Everglades), Loxahatchee Refuge, Ding Darling Refuge, Big Cypress preserve, Corkscrew Swamp preserve, Wakodahatchee & Green Cay boardwalks, Okeeheelee Nature Center. See over 100 species of birds, including purple gallinule, burrowing owl, barred owl, roseate spoonbill, and reddish egret — plus lots of gators and the endangered American crocodile. Easy hiking and travelling by van. Cost: \$1,795 includes airfare, van rental, gas/tolls, lodging, breakfasts & lunches, guides, park admissions. Good photo opportunities and no birding experience necessary (only two spaces left).

WINTER WILDLIFE AT JAMAICA BAY (Sun., Feb. 15). Meet 10 A.M. at refuge center for a two-hour hike around the ponds & upland woods with naturalist Don Riepe to look for winter birds & wildlife. Call (718) 318-9344 to reserve. Free.

RAPTOR TRUST & GREAT SWAMP REFUGE, NJ (Sun., April 26). Leave 10 A.M. by bus from Manhattan and return at 6 P.M. Cost: \$65 includes bus and guides.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, driepe@nyc.rr.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

## THIS WINTER'S OWLS, INCLUDING SNOWY

Don Riepe

Editor's note: The following first appeared on December 22 on the Jamaica Bay e-list, which discusses environmental issues throughout the Jamaica Bay area. I saw two Snowy Owls in the West End of Jones Beach on January 3; SSAS's walk there the next day included one of them.

There have been several Snowy Owls reported so far in the area this winter: Smith's Point, Fire Island; West End 2 dunes, Jones Beach; and 2 were reported killed by aircraft at JFK airport. Unfortunately, one of the best places to find Snowy Owls in winter is at airports along the coast. They like the open, tundra-like habitat, where they hunt rabbits, voles, mice, rats, and probably even muskrats. At JFK there are also black-tailed jackrabbits. Flying low across runways, however, is dangerous for owls (and aircraft). Other owls seen in the area include Saw-whet, Barn, Long-eared (Jones Beach pines), and Screech (five during the Christmas Bird Count on Staten Island). The Great Horned Owl nests in NYC at places like Alley Pond Park, North Brother Island, and I believe in Central Park (North Woods area). A few winters ago, we had our first NYC record for Boreal

# MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

tough time of year.

Owl (Central Park). So, they are all around us. Let's hope that the abundant rats & mice of NYC get them through a

Wendy Murbach

South Shore Audubon Society's Board of Directors is full of bright, hard working, caring, environmentally savvy people. All are working very hard in some way to further the mission of our chapter, and to keep South Shore Audubon's bird walks, meetings, and newsletters entertaining and educational.

This month I'd like to introduce Michael "Mike" Sperling, our past president and present *Skimmer* editor. I've asked him some questions, and here are his answers.

- 1. How did you get started with South Shore Audubon and when? I sent a letter to National Audubon Society, asking if there was a local chapter. I joined in 1984 at age 25.
- 2. Where did you go to school and what was your major? Degrees? SUNY Stony Brook; B.S. in Astronomy and Applied Math.
- 3. What positions did you hold on SSAS's Board? What position do you hold now? Newsletter Editor since 1990, VP 1992–1994, Director 2003–2005, President 2005–2008.
- 4. What exactly is it you do in your present position on the Board? Collect and write articles for the Skimmer, type and proofread it, lay out the pages, and help prepare mailings.
- 5. What else did you do for SSAS? Member of the Brookside Preserve, Conservation, and Annual Dinner committees; volunteered at birdseed sales and flea markets; served as

Webmaster; attend Long Island and New York State Audubon Council meetings; attended National Audubon Society conventions.

- 6. If you are working, what is your job? Technical Editor for an engineering society.
- 7. What is your environmental philosophy? Not an easy question... I greatly enjoy wildlife and natural scenery, and therefore support numerous environmental organizations in their uphill battle against individuals, companies, and governments that are all too willing to sacrifice the future in favor of short-term gain. I believe in using regulations and government funding to preserve our natural resources.
- 8. If you are a birder, how did you get started birding? What is the most interesting birding tale that you were involved with? As a youngster with binoculars, I was impressed by a mockingbird that used the next-door neighbor's roof antenna as a perch for aerial displays but I misidentified it as a big junco when my outdated teeny Golden Nature

Guide's maps indicated that mockingbirds (pictured, © Sue deLearie Adair) weren't found this far north! When I was older, my father started putting birdseed on the ground and attracted a particularly deadly cat; my sug-

gestion that he use feeders was accepted under the condition that I filled them and I've been feeding birds ever since.

The first birding tale that comes to mind took place during an SSAS walk. We encountered an injured herring gull that couldn't fly and there was a rehabilitator on the walk who wanted to bring it to a veterinarian. She asked if anyone had a box for transporting it; as usual, I had empty newsletter cartons in my car's trunk that were awaiting return to our printer, so I volunteered. She carried the gull to the parking lot; all I had to do was hold the box's flaps open. Little did I suspect that as it was being placed in the box, the gull would show its appreciation by biting me on the thumb. Ouch.

- 9. What are your other interests? Rooting for NY sports teams, listening to music (especially old rock & roll), news and weather, traveling, astronomy, reading nonfiction.
- 10. What makes South Shore Audubon important in your estimation? In addition to providing opportunities to meet like-minded people, I think SSAS is important because we help educate people about their natural world and the threats to it, and our reputation and number of members enable us to have a positive effect on what's happening around us.

# A BELATED THANK YOU

In the last *Skimmer*, we failed to include Charlie Kiefer in our list of people who helped out at our Brookside Preserve cleanup on October 19. Charlie had the distinction of locating the most densely concentrated and varied collection of litter that day, keeping several of us entertained for quite a while. Thanks, Charlie!

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

# 21ST ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates for the 2008–2009 Waterfowl Survey are as follows, rain or shine: January 31, February 21, and March 21. Volunteers are welcome to participate in the surveys. If you are interested in spending a full or halfday visiting some of the 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park (Paul Butkereit leads surveys of 10 Five Towns locations), call Joe Grupp, SSAS's Research Chairperson, at 481-4208.

# 

In November, SaveOurEnvironment.org (which consists of National Audubon Society and 28 other prominent environmental organizations) presented its 389-page report, "Transition to Green: Leading the way to a healthy environment, a green economy, and a sustainable future," to President-elect Obama's transition team. You can download the report from the website, at the end of which is an appendix entitled "Top Issue Summary." Here are those issues, some of which are quite specific:

# CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

### Climate and Energy (Top Priorities)

- Work with Congress to pass legislation in 2009 that revitalizes our economy and delivers energy and climate security
- 2. Tackle global warming using the executive branch's powers under existing laws
- 3. Restore America's global leadership on global warming

  America's Arctic and the Circumpolar Arctic
- 4. Develop a comprehensive Arctic conservation energy plan
- 5. Take a precautionary approach to industrial activities in the Arctic
- 6. Initiate international negotiations

#### Land and Water Conservation Fund

7. Increase the Land and Water Conservation Fund

# EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT Council on Environmental Quality

- 8. Restore CEQ's leadership role on environmental policy
- 9. Charge CEO with a lead role on climate change and energy strategy
- Strengthen the appropriate use of the National Environmental Policy Act

### Office of Management and Budget

- 11. Reaffirm the primary role of substantive law and agency expertise in regulatory decision making
- 12. Increase openness and transparency within the federal government and with the general public
- 13. Allow robust scientific input into decision making

# Office of Science and Technology Policy

14. Provide the president with the clear and objective scientific advice needed to make informed policy decisions

- 15. Restore scientific integrity
- 16. Protect and support federal scientists

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Army Corps of Engineers

- 17. Prioritize protection and restoration of ecosystems in project planning
- 18. Implement Water Resources Development Act of 2007 reforms
- 19. Reform the regulatory process governing the use of the nation's navigable waters to prioritize protection of aquatic resources Department of the Army (Not Including Civil Works)
- Reduce energy usage through conservation and researching, developing and deploying renewable energy
- 21. Environmentally restore existing facilities and reform procurement practices to reduce the environmental footprint
- 22. Account for environmental values in installation planning and management

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

- 23. Ensure regulation and screening of plant imports
- 24. Strengthen regulation of genetically engineered crops
- 25. Reform U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services

#### Farm Service Agency

- 26. Reinvigorate the Conservation Reserve Program
- 27. Halt policies promoting native grassland conversion
- 28. Improve conservation compliance

#### Forest Service

- 29. Manage the National Forest System to secure climate benefits
- Restore scientific integrity in Forest Service planning and management
- 31. Reform Forest Service's budget to reprioritize rising expenditures dedicated to fire suppression, reflecting public needs, and ensuring transparent decision making and effective oversight

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

- 32. Improve effectiveness of working lands conservation programs
- 33. Improve agency effectiveness
- 34. Maintain value of Wetlands Reserve Program

#### Research, Education, and Economics

- 35. Dedicate a fair share of USDA REE resources to sustainable agricultural programs
- 36. Restore capacity of the National Agriculture Statistics Service to provide regular and frequent reports on the use of agricultural chemicals
- 37. Advance a sustainable bioenergy future DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- 38. Seek passage of the No Child Left Inside Act
- 39. Support the reauthorization of the National Education Act
- 40. Establish a Presidential Comprehensive Climate Change Education and Readiness Initiative

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- 41. Help the U.S. achieve cost-effective energy efficiency
- 42. Increase supplies of renewable energy in an environmentally responsible manner
- 43. Cut funding for fossil and nuclear energy

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- 44. Improve public health monitoring programs
- 45. Improve global warming health preparedness

### Food and Drug Administration

- 46. Reduce exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in our food
- 47. Ensure the safety and quality of bottled water
- 48. Ban the use of the pharmaceutical Lindane

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

49. Integrate environmental protection into the Department of Homeland Security's mission

- 50. Comply with environmental law at the U.S.-Mexico border
- 51. Reinvigorate U.S. Coast Guard enforcement of marine conservation and pollution laws

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Bureau of Land Management

- 52. Restore balance to the BLM's oil and gas program
- 53. Preserve lands in their natural condition
- 54. Restore the use of science in agency planning

#### Bureau of Reclamation

- 55. Establish a new mandate for the 21st Century
- 56. Respond to climate change
- 57. Transition from a customer service agency to a public service agency

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

- Reinvest in, and reform the management of, the National Wildlife Refuge System
- 59. Respond to climate change
- Restore and improve implementations of the Endangered Species Act

#### Minerals Management Service

- 61. Reinstate MMS Outer Continental Shelf protections
- 62. Increase study and research in order to make better choices if, when, where, and how industrial activities are permitted
- 63. Reform MMS so that oil and gas royalties are collected in a transparent, accountable, and fiscally prudent manner

#### National Park Service

- 64. Protect and revitalize our heritage with American jobs
- 65. Ensure sound management and leadership
- 66. Protect and restore native biodiversity and adapt to climate change

#### U.S. Geological Survey

- 67. Accelerate research on climate change impacts and adaptation
- 68. Restore and enhance the Cooperative Research Unit Program
- 69. Promote the upcoming state-of-the-birds report
- 70. Increase funding for bird-related research and monitoring

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- 71. Revise policies on access to the courts, transparency, and legal excellence
- 72. Align litigation positions with policy direction
- 73. Launch environmental protection and enforcement initiatives

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- 74. Restore American leadership in international climate policy
- 75. Reassert U.S. leadership in conservation of the world's natural resources
- 76. Develop and promote a coherent international approach to the sound management of chemicals

### U.S. Agency for International Development

- 77. Reform and revitalize foreign assistance
- 78. Lead globally on climate change adaptation and resilience

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- 79. Spur development and market dissemination of low and no carbon technologies and fuels
- 80. Reform surface transportation policy
- 81. Make climate change a cross-departmental priority

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- 82. Promote clean energy resources and reduce global warming pollution
- 83. Green the multilateral development banks
- 84. Undertake a new engagement with China

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- 85. Protect, restore, and enhance natural resources that provide Americans' water supply and protect and clean the nation's waters
- 86. Protect Americans and our environment against three of the most dangerous forms of air pollution: fine particles, smog, and toxics such as mercury

- 87. Promote environmental health and safety
- 88. Reduce emissions quickly and deeply enough to avoid the worst effects of global warming
- 89. Reaffirm environmental justice policies

#### American Indian Environmental Office

- 90. Increase the breadth and impact of the American Indian Environmental Office
- 91. Conduct tribal baseline environmental and environmental health assessments
- 92. Improve the environmental capacity of Indian tribes

# NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

- 93. Promote a systematic approach to protecting, maintaining, and restoring marine ecosystem health and resilience
- 94. Protect imperiled species
- 95. Establish healthy national and global fisheries

# BACKYARD BIRD COUNT OBSERVATION

Mary Jane Russell

A male Red-bellied Woodpecker was pecking at our round birdhouse about 45 degrees from the entrance. The occupant, a House Sparrow (pictured), popped out his head and turned toward the woodpecker, seemingly to say "We don't want any — go away!"

From your editor: One day, when our tube feeder's sunflower hearts were being eaten by a Red-bellied Woodpecker at one of the four ports, the woodpecker repeatedly chased away House Sparrows that

attempted to land 90 degrees to the left (paying no mind to birds on the right). After a few minutes, one House Sparrow tried landing at the far side of the fooder and leaving even to gree as

the feeder and leaning over to grab seeds from the defended port. This wise move was successful several times with nary a peck from the woodpecker, but other House Sparrows that seemed to be watching didn't emulate this behavior and continued to be chased away.

#### 

Joe Grupp

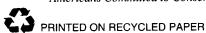
For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you make only very few.

Simply record the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Survey sheets are available at SSAS events and at ssaudubon.org or you can create your own.

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale, NY 11553 or e-mail Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com.

# **South Shore Audubon Society** P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Americans Committed to Conservation



DATED MATERIAL



U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** Permit No. 1181 **NONPROFIT** Freeport, NY

### 2008-2009 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Wendy Murbach, President & Membership 546-6303			
-			
Steven Schellenger, Vice President 987-8103			
Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer			
Ruth Aptacker, Recording Secretary 791-1746			
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary 221-1870			
Barbara Levine, Director (6/11)741-3386			
Therese Lucas, Director (6/11), Greening of Long Island			
& Annual Dinner			
Joe Landesberg, Director (6/10) 536-4808			
Marilyn Hametz, Director (6/09) & Publicity 799-7189			
Betty Borowsky, Education			
Jim Brown, Conservation			
Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications 671-7685			
Joseph Grupp, Research			
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Co-Chair 546-884			
Enid Klein, Programs 561-0004			
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips			
George Peters, Brookside Preserve Co-Chair 868-5480			
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631-957-0949			
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599-1224			
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality 766-7397			
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor 221-3921			

# **BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS** Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to South Shore Audubon Society using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Option 2. To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues-share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to National Audubon Society to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE NO.:
E-MAIL:
Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)