VOLUME 40, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2009

NEXT MEETING

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Dave Gardner

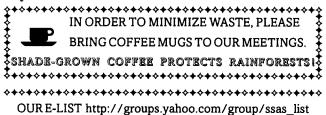
TOPIC: A Year in the Life of a Bird Photographer

This month's meeting will include a 38-minute show of 447 photos, accompanied by titles and music, that are the result of our guest speaker's 20-year passion for bird and nature photography. These photos of landscapes, plants, and animals were taken near Dave Gardner's home in Queens, during trips to birding hot spots, on a whalewatching trip, and while in Florida and Maine.

Dave has been employed in the photo industry since the 1970s and has been our presenter before. His award-winning images have been published in *Nature's Best, Birder's World, N.Y.S. Conservationist, Bird Watcher's Digest, Ducks Unlimited,* and other magazines; in calendars; and in the book "City Peregrines" by Saul Frank. His website is http://lensman.smugmug.com. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. most months, 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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wendy Murbach

Last spring, during the summer, and now on my fall birding trips, there is always someone who says, "I remember when birds were all over the trees and bushes in this place. What's going on?"

Is it because we are all getting older and remember things "back in the good old days" as being much better? Or is there really something going on? All my reading lately has been saying that there really is something happening in our world that impacts wildlife.

Habitat destruction is mentioned as one of the most important factors in the decline of bird populations. Forests in the South American tropical regions are being cut at ever-increasing rates. Huge areas are logged for lumber production, for agriculture, and for development.

Our songbirds migrate to spend winter where the bugs and berries that they need to feed on are flourishing. What happens when a bird who needs a certain type of habitat does not find that habitat when it arrives because the area has been clear-cut? Can it just fly somewhere else and find a duplicate habitat, or do birds have homes that they remember to go to? Indeed, some go to the same spot each year. Some may try other places, only to find that they are competing with birds that historically have used that area — or there may not be a comparable habitat for the bird to use. Unfortunately, the bird is not going to get the food it needs, and probably will sicken and die.

In Central American countries, land is being cleared for mono-crop agriculture and for coffee plantations. Here again, the particular habitat that was present is no longer available for the birds who are expecting to find it. Additionally, in Central America, the agricultural crops that are being planted are also being sprayed weekly with chemicals that are no longer allowed in the United States. This actually makes that habitat lethal to birds. Whole fields of alighting birds have been killed in this way.

Large areas of the boreal forest in Canada are being destroyed for wood product production. The boreal forest

is the area where most of the warblers passing through our area in the spring migration go to breed. Late migrators to the area may not find breeding territories and they may not breed that year.

These are large-scale habitat disruptions, but there are many smaller-scale habitat destructions that occur everywhere one looks. For instance, your neighbor cuts down a tree next to his house, a vacant lot is developed for a strip mall or a restaurant, a new outdoor cat moves in next door, you stop putting seed into your bird feeder, a beach house is built, your lawn service puts down weed killer on your grass, or a new ball field is created. Each one of these changes the habitat for birds. Birds lose places to feed, nest, and breed in all of these cases.

Habitat destruction is only one of the factors that may be lowering the number of birds that we are seeing, but it is a large factor and it ties in with climate change because change in the tree cover on the planet will cause change in temperature and rainfall. That will certainly cause habitat change, disruptive for the bird species who have migrated to an area for many, many years.

Yes. I am one of those who has noticed fewer birds in our trees and bushes. What do you think?

Editor's note: See www.stateofthebirds.org for a report and video produced this year by the U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and other organiza-

^^^^^^^^^^ BIRD WALKS 🎻 Sleve Schellenger

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 at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Oct. 25	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 1	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Nov. 8	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)*
Nov. 15	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
Nov. 22	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 29	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
	side of Merrick Rd.)
Dec. 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 13	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
	(and Lido Preserve afterwards)
Dec. 20	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)*
Dec. 27	Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)
Jan. 3	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Jan. 10	Mill Pond Park
* Made. The	band ban action on the same of the contract of the same

*Note: The ongoing Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration Project at Massapequa Preserve may result in a detour from our usual route along the paved path; if you arrive late, follow any detour signs to find us.

Birdseed Optics Birdbaths Bird Houses Feeders Jewelry Music **Nature Gifts** Tilley Hats And much more . .



Lighthouse Commons 631-218-BIRD (2473) www.wbu.com/oekdele

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 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. Our new members this month are:

Atlantic Beach Helen & Arnold Mintz
Baldwin Nikolas M. Nester
Bellmore Kevin Carr
Cedarhurst Louise Kirkwood
East Meadow Myrtle Bergeman, Christa Fulton
Elmont Mustafa Ali, Frank Sepp
Floral Park Kari McKahan, Gerald
Mc Loughlin
Franklin Square Laura Cesare, Scott Davey
Freeport Mary E. Kahn, Noelia
Mastromauro, Kathleen Sheenan
Garden City Marian Michel, Susan Warhurst,
Declan Welch
Hicksville Devanshu Narang
Island Park C. Hall, Betty Karpf
Lynbrook Steve Actidano
Massapequa Renee Alfieri, Caitlin & Arianna
Legoff, Patricia Vojcik
Merrick Hannah Palant, Joseph A. Popper
Oceanside Philip Joyce
Plainview Jeffrey Jensen, David Pollack,
? Wolf
Rockville Centre Mary Jane Regan, Jerome
Richards, Jane Sturm
Seaford Patricia Varnas
Uniondale
Valley Stream Marie Farrell, Maria McCole
Wantagh Ruth Stein

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
~

NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Listening to the Peeps

Joe Grupp

One afternoon, in early autumn, with only a couple of hours of daylight left, we arrived at the Brigantine Division of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville, New Jersey. The sky was mostly cloudy with a few small breaks of blue. The light that filtered through the not-very-thick cloud cover fell softly on the marshes of the refuge. The grasses appeared as swaths of soft yellow-green brushed with the light golden tan of early autumn.

Not far along the Wildlife Drive, we came upon what we first thought was a small flock of shorebirds in the large water impoundment. Part of the area in the impoundment near the road was covered with very shallow water that gave way to an exposed mudflat. The mudflat was covered with small clumps of very small plants and grasses.

Stopping the car and scanning the flats through binoculars, we soon realized that what we thought was a small flock was really a very large flock of small sandpipers that we birders frequently call "peeps" if we choose not to identify the species. We later identified them as Semipalmated Sandpipers and did not attempt to find other similar-appearing species that may or may not have been mixed in the flock.

Individual birds pecked in the mud or in and around the clumps of small vegetation while feeding for very short or longer periods of time, and then, with small dark legs rapidly moving, moved, usually not very far, to a new position. The marsh was alive with movement as there were always some birds in motion while others were feeding. Occasionally a few birds rose into the air and flew very low over the flock, and then settled in a spot where there were no birds or just a few feeding.

All our viewing was from the car and at one point I opened the windows both for a better view and because it was getting a bit warm. In doing so we were in for a pleasant surprise as we heard the peep, peep, peep of the species' call. It was not the call of a single bird that we heard but the call of hundreds, each one calling individually and randomly. Collectively their individual calls became a symphony of its own. We sat there for a while, as a slightly damp but pleasant breeze flowed through the car's opened windows, seemingly bringing the sounds to us. I never tried to estimate the size of the flock but am pretty sure there were many more than a few hundred birds. There may have even been a thousand or more.



We had a fair list of birds by the time we left the refuge. There were smaller flocks of Black-bellied Plovers, Forster's Terns, Greater Yellowlegs (pictured), American Black Ducks, Laughing Gulls, egrets, as well as individual birds such as a Caspian Tern, an Osprey, and others. When we first arrived at the refuge, an immature

Northern Harrier put on a show for us as it drifted low over the marsh and close to the car, showing off the russet brown of its underparts. As we left the refuge, the bottoms of the clouds were just starting to change to pink as the sun was setting. From the time we arrived until we left, it was a good time to be at the refuge. The best part of all was listening to the peeps.

Turtle Update. If you read this column in the last issue of the Skimmer, you are aware that last summer I and other members of the Research Committee observed a snapping turtle laying eggs in a nest it had scraped at Hempstead Lake State Park. [Editor's interruption: The October issue will be added to ssaudubon.org in November.] On the Thursday after I submitted the article for that issue, Rick Kopitsch checked the nest as we were doing another survey in that area. The nest had a hole in the ground that covered the eggs and nearby he found a baby snapping turtle. After we all had our fill of looking at the small turtle, it was placed in the water of the pond where it swam off into whatever nature may have in store for it. I hope you, the reader, enjoyed this update as much as we did finding the baby turtle.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat., Nov. 14). Meet 10 a.m. at entrance in Coney Island for a 2-1/2 hour "behind-the-scenes" tour given by veteran educator Bob Cummings. See walrus, beluga whales, sea turtles, sharks, penguins, sea otters, and "Squirt, the Wonder Clam." Cost: \$25 (kids \$15). To reserve, send check to American Littoral Society at address below.

WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP (Sun., Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Meet at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for slide program and walk led by Don Riepe. Free; call to reserve.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., December 5). Join ALS members & others for a fun day/evening at VFW Hall on Shad Creek Road in Broad Channel. Cost: \$45 incl. food, drink, "Ugly Auction," flamenco troop performance, exotic (a.k.a. belly) dancer. Come early and meet at 3 p.m. for a nature walk through Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; party starts at 5 p.m.

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (January 8–10). Spend weekend at luxurious Manor House (heated pool, jacuzzi, sauna, spacious lobby w/ fireplaces). See hundreds of sea ducks, loons, scoters, eiders, and visit seal haulout sites. Easy hikes along beach, woods, and bluffs. Cost: \$345 includes 2 nights, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, star watch, and free pickup at LIRR station.

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.

STARLINGS FROM PROJECT GUTENBERG

Project Gutenberg bills itself as the first website to provide "etext" of free downloadable books whose copyrights have fallen into the public domain. The following is from "Bird Neighbors" by Neltje Blanchan, which was originally published in 1897 with a foreword about birding by famous nature essayist John Burroughs, and revised in 1904 and 1922. You can find it at www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext99/bdnbr10.txt. Notwithstanding the outdated description of the European Starling's range and impact that you're about to read below, the book is worth a look. You'll notice that the distributions of some of the 150 backyard species covered have changed significantly and that some of the alternative names have nearly been forgotten (such as Social Sparrow, better known as Chipping Sparrow).

STARLING (Sturnus vulgaris)

Length - 8 to 9 inches.

Weight about equals that of robin, but the starling, with its short, drooping tail, is chunkier in appearance.

Male — Iridescent black with glints of purple, green, and blue. On back the black feathers, with iridescence of green and bronze, are tipped with brown, as are some of the tail and wing feathers. In autumn and early winter, feathers of sides of head, breast, flanks, and underparts are tipped with white, giving a gray, mottled appearance. During the winter most of the white tips on breast and underparts wear off. Until the first moult in late summer, the young birds are a dark olive-brown in color, with white or whitish throat. These differences in plumage at different seasons and different ages make starlings hard to identify. Red-winged blackbirds and grackles are often mistaken for them. From early spring till mid-June, starling's rather long, sharp bill is yellow. Later in summer it darkens. No other black bird of ours has this yellow bill at any season.

Female — Similar in appearance.

Range — Massachusetts to Maryland. Not common beyond 100 miles inland. (Native of northern Europe and Asia.)

Migrations — Permanent resident, but flocks show some tendency to drift southward in winter.

This newcomer to our shores is by no means so black as he has been painted. Like many other European immi-

grants, he landed at or near Castle Garden, New York City [Ellis Island's predecessor, now Castle Clinton National Monument], and his descendants have not cared to wander very far from this vicinity, preferring regions

with a pretty numerous human population. The starlings have increased so fast in this limited region since their first permanent settlement in Central Park about 1890 that farmers and suburban dwellers have feared that they

might become as undesirable citizens as some other Europeans — the brown rat, the house mouse, and the English sparrow [now called House Sparrow by the American Ornithological Union]. But a very thorough investigation conducted by the United States Bureau of Biological Survey (Bulletin No. 868, 1921) is most reassuring in its results.

Let us first state the case for the prosecution: (1) the starling must plead guilty to a fondness for cultivated cherries; (2) he is often a persecutor of native birds, like the bluebird and flicker; (3) his roosts, where he sometimes congregates in thousands in the autumn, are apt to become public nuisances, offensive alike to the eye, the nose, and the ear.

But these offences are not so very serious after all. He does not eat so many cherries as our old friend the robin, though his depredations are more conspicuous, for whereas the robins in ones and twos will pilfer steadily from many trees for many days without attracting notice, a crowd of starlings is occasionally observed to descend en masse upon a single tree and strip it in a few hours. Naturally such high-handed procedure is observed by many and deeply resented by the owner of the tree, who suffers the steady but less spectacular raids of the robins without serious disquiet.

Less can be said in defense of the starling's scandalous treatment of some native birds. "Unrelenting perseverance dominates the starling's activities when engaged in a controversy over a nesting site. More of its battles are won by dogged persistence in annoying its victim than by bold aggression, and its irritating tactics are sometimes carried to such a point that it seems almost as if the bird were actuated more by a morbid pleasure of annoying its neighbors than by any necessity arising from a scarcity of nesting sites...

"In contests with the flicker, the starling frequently makes up in numbers what disadvantage it may have in size. Typical of such combats was the one observed on May 9, at Hartford, Conn., where a group of starlings and a flicker were in controversy over a newly excavated nest. The number of starlings varied, but as many as 6 were noted at one time. Attention was first attracted to the dispute by a number of starlings in close proximity to the hole and by the sounds of a tussle within. Presently a flicker came out dragging a starling after him. The starling continued the battle outside long enough to allow one of its comrades to slip into the nest. Of course the flicker had to repeat the entire performance. He did this for about half an hour, when he gave up, leaving the starlings in possession of the nest...

"Economically considered, the starling is the superior of either the flicker, the robin, or the English sparrow, three of the species with which it comes in contact in its breeding operations. The eggs and young of bluebirds and wrens may be protected by the use of nest boxes with circular openings 1-1/2 inches or less in diameter. This leaves the purple martin the only species readily subject to

attack by the starling, whose economic worth may be considered greater than that of the latter, but in no case was the disturbance of a well-established colony of martins noted."

As for the nuisance of a big established roost of starlings, it may be abated by nightly salvos of Roman candles or blank cartridges, continued for a week or at most ten days.

So much for the starling in his aspect as an undesirable citizen. Government investigators, by a long-continued study, have discovered that his good deeds far outnumber his misdemeanors. Primarily he feeds on noxious insects and useless wild fruits. Small truck gardens and individual cherry trees may be occasionally raided by large flocks with disastrous results in a small way. But on the whole he is a useful frequenter of our door-yards who 'pays his way by destroying hosts of cut-worms and equally noxious' insects. "A thorough consideration of the evidence at hand indicates that, based on food habits, the adult starling is the economic superior of the robin, catbird, flicker, red-winged blackbird, or grackle." Need more be said for him?

SSAS STATEMENT ON NYS ENERGY PLAN

Jim Brown

The following are the comments I recently posted at www.nysenergyplan.com/submitideas.html. The dead-line for comments was October 19.

The South Shore Audubon Society is alarmed over the fact that the current energy plan being developed by New York State includes the possibility of creating liquefied natural gas facilities off the coast of Long Island. LNG is a polluting fossil fuel that contributes to global warming. Long Island is very vulnerable to the damaging effects of sea level rise linked to global warming. LNG facilities would also adversely affect the environment by damaging the sea floor, harming fisheries, and further negatively impacting already endangered marine species that inhabit and visit our waters. LNG is an unnecessary and undesirable industrialization of our coastal and marine environments, and should have no place in our state's energy plan.

The South Shore Audubon Society believes "we should encourage local governments and citizens to reduce their carbon footprints and dependency on nonrenewable fossil fuels by utilizing many existing conservation methods, including recycling, mass transit, local food sources, green building codes, alternative energy sources, and energy efficient products" (quoted from the Global Warming resolution of the Audubon Council of New York State). New York State should strongly and dramatically encourage energy conservation and the development of alternative energy sources. Creating LNG facilities located off our coasts would be detrimental to these sound energy goals.

Editor's note: If you haven't seen previous Skimmer articles about the proposed 86-acre LNG island off Long Beach, see the information at www.cleanoceanaction.org.

GREENWICH HAWK WATCH VISIT RESCHEDULED

On **Saturday, November 14**, at 9:30 A.M., SSAS members are invited to the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut (http://greenwich.audubon.org) to see some of the last migrating hawks this year and to go birding along its trails, weather permitting (rescheduled due to fog in early October). Those of you who visited the Center with us in May know what a wonderful place it is.

Last autumn migration, the Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch on a hilltop at the Center recorded 26,203 hawks, eagles, and vultures, including 785 representing 17 different species in the first three weeks of November. Daily data is posted at www.hawkcount.org/siteinfo.php?rsite=149.

Send e-mail to Barbara Levine at barban22 @optonline.net or call her at 741-3386 to RSVP. Carpools can be arranged if needed. Donation to the Center will be \$5. Picnic tables are available if you wish to bring a bag lunch. We hope you can join us for a memorable day.

**

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.

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

LEONARD G. KONSKER

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Konsker and Company, LTD 550 W. Old Country Rd., Suite 101 Hicksville, New York 11801

SAVE THE DATE

SSAS's annual Holiday Party for kids (and adults) at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford is scheduled for **Saturday, December 5** at 1 o'clock and is expected to feature a program starring animals from the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Hamptons.

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.

WATCHING HAWKS WITH A "ROAD MAP"

Michael Givant

Editor's note: The following article originally appeared on November 14, 2008 in Anton Community Newspapers and is reprinted with encouragement from the author, an SSAS member, who has contributed many birding articles to the local newspaper chain.

Most of the time they were black specks that couldn't be seen without binoculars or a birding telescope. However, after spending nine hours on a hawk-watching platform on Fire Island this past September [2008] on a cloudy day with winds gusting at 15 mph and the temperature in the 60s, I was genuinely looking forward to going again. I accompanied Walter, a friend who does this hawk watch every Thursday during September and October, along with two other serious birders, Ken and Steve.

As we drove onto Fire Island just before 7 A.M. with the sun trying to break through gray clouds, two Common Loons were flying over the dunes.

A white-tailed deer, looking like a larger-than-life painting, stood with legs outstretched and watched us for a few seconds before disappearing into some trees. Once up on the platform, a family of five deer grazing below looked up at us. The two adults and a juvenile were a dusky brown while two fawns were a rich tan. They looked lean, lithe, and curiously fragile as they grazed, ambled over to some trees, and quietly disappeared.

The wind, which whistled in my ears much of the day, was from the east. Migrating raptors don't find an east wind conducive to their southern journey. However, a northeast wind last Thursday had brought 500 migrants. Today figured to be quiet.

Watching migrating hawks is hardly the same as looking at them perched nearby on a tree branch. What you see through binoculars is a speeding black silhouette often a few hundred yards away, sometimes more. The birds can be engagingly beautiful but offer only seconds to identify.

Our first bird is a big Osprey lazily flapping its wings over the choppy ocean. It's quickly gone and entered into the tally sheet by Steve, a meticulous recorder. As a first-time hawk watcher, I soon was excited to see the round head and tight tail of a Peregrine Falcon that dives routinely at 200 mph, cruising in slow circles over the Atlantic. No dives today, but this bird, because of its speed, has a mystique that makes it exciting just to see.

Later, a smaller raptor, an American Kestrel (pictured), comes in low and fast over the dunes near the Great South Bay. In less than a minute, three dozen European Starlings that have been feeding and don't want to be fed upon, scatter in the air in a defensive ball shape.

"Whoa, whoa, look here" someone says. A fast, fastflapping raptor comes in on the parking lot side. It is a black silhouette with sharply pointed wings. The bird turns and comes back again. Is it carrying something? No. It's a Merlin, the first of 15 that we'll see today. My three hawk-eyed, expert companions call out where the raptors are and identify them while I listen to their descriptions explaining why a raptor is a Merlin or a Kestrel or something else. They are very good teachers.

Ken soon makes a comment, which becomes a road map for me. Kestrels, the smallest of the falcons, flap hard because their size often makes them struggle with the wind. Merlins, slightly larger and chunkier raptors, come in low and fast, flapping hard but not struggling. The Peregrines ride on the wind. Control is their signature. While this is basically the case, it wasn't a hard and fast rule, he added. Something about what he said, combined with what I'd seen so far, rang true with the old college professor in me. It was a guide to watching the hawks that I would use all day.

Some raptors come in low and hard, and I guess "Merlin" as Ken, Walter, or Steve identifies them. When someone calls out "a Peregrine," I look up and look twice. The bent, pointed wings of the falcon billow out, like a sail as it makes tight slow circles. This detail isn't shown in any field guide I've looked at. Later I watch another Merlin flying on a straight line toward the ocean. As the raptor comes back, I notice that the front edge of its wings aren't as curved as those of the Peregrine. The day is becoming a hawk-watch master class.

Later in the afternoon, Walter spots a second Peregrine circling near one that we were already watching. It is a rare sight he says as we watch the two do semi-fast circles as they fly steadily toward the Robert Moses Twin Causeway. They are black silhouettes, one closer and looking larger, the other further away and looking smaller. Soon, they are out of sight. Afterward I wonder if both were circling in the same direction or divergent ones. Steve, whose knowledge is wide and deep, remembered they were both circling counterclockwise. I'm impressed.

A little later, around 3 o'clock, we watch a higher-flying Peregrine. Looking at its round head and tight tail, I see that it flaps hard then glides and repeats the cycle several times. I smile, Ken is right; there are variations. A little while later I watch another Merlin cross the thin lines of dark clouds that stood out against the palest shade of salmon coloring from the hidden sun. Nature is an exquisite artist.

As we are leaving, the same family of deer is grazing by the roadside and watches us pass. Next time I'm bringing warmer clothes. While it was fall today, the conditions felt like winter. If Walter hadn't brought an extra jacket for me, I never would have lasted.

Watching silhouettes is a different kind of birding than I'm used to, and is both a challenge and an adventure. The group has real camaraderie, which I enjoy. Besides, the wind may be out of the northwest next time and perhaps a few hundred raptors will come through. You can't ask for more.

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

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.

To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper to the table and submit the additional recordings in the same manner. 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. Additional survey sheets are available at SSAS events.

Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Dates: Fi	rom	to					
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
•				ĺ		•	
							
······································							
				,			
				Submitted by:			
				Addres	ss:		
***				Phone	number:		
				I Hone	iidiiibei		
				Please	send to: M	r. J. Grupp, Research Chair	person
					660) Edgemere Ave., Uniondal	e NY 11553
						or E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@	aol.com
	<u> </u>						
-		l		tl			

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

2009–2010 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

TAT 1 36 1 1 TO 11 . 0 36 1 11	F 40 0000
Wendy Murbach, President & Membership	
Steven Schellenger, Vice Pres. & Field Trips	
Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer	378-4025
Doreen McCrystal, Recording Secretary	249-5646
Joanne Del Prete, Director (6/12)	433-0739
Don Temple, Director (6/12)	420-1244
Barbara Levine, Director (6/11)	.741-3386
Therese Lucas, Dir. (6/11) & Greeningof L.I	221-3921
John Gaglione, Director (6/10)	731-5012
Joe Landesberg, Dir. (6/10) & H.S. Scholshps	
Betty Borowsky, Education	764-3596
Jim Brown, Conservation	432-8156
Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications	671-7685
Joseph Grupp, Research	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Co-Chair & Co	ollege
Scholarships	
Marilyn Hametz, Publicity	
Enid Klein, Programs	
Elliott Kutner, Birding Consultant	
George Peters, Brookside Preserve Co-Chair	
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality	
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!

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