VOLUME 42, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2011

NEXT MEETING

John Gaglione

DATE: REASON: Tuesday,, November 15, 2011

Library is Closed on Election Day

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

TOPIC:

SPEAKERS: Peter Capainolo & Carol A. Butler How Fast Can a Falcon Dive?

At our next meeting, the authors of How Fast Can a Falcon Dive? will present a digital slide show based on the book published last year by Rutgers University Press.

In their question-and-answer book, our guest speakers define and classify raptors, explore the physical attributes of birds of prey, view how their bodies work, and explain their social and physical behaviors, including how they communicate, hunt, reproduce, and have adapted to the human world.

Peter Capainolo, who received a falconry permit as a Long Islander at age 18 and did a raptor program for us in 2009, is a senior scientific assistant in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History. an adjunct faculty member at the City University of New York, research associate and board member at the Long Island Natural History Museum, and serves on the New York State Falconry Advisory Board.

Carol A. Butler is the coauthor of Salt Marshes: A Natural and Unnatural History and books within the Rutgers Animal Q&A series that she originated, including Do Butterflies Bite?, Do Bats Drink Blood?, Do Hummingbirds Hum?, and Why Do Bees Buzz?. She is a psychoanalyst and a mediator in private practice in New York City, an adjunct assistant professor at New York University in the Department of Applied Psychology, and a docent at the American Museum of Natural History.

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.

 IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS. \$SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS | \$

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.

 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Bird Collisions

Jim Brown

Last month in this column I referred to the belief that environmentalists must attempt to solve very real problems that confront us and threaten the natural world we love so much. A problem that now confronts and threatens birds — and the enjoyment and conservation of birds comprise the core interest of Audubon members — is being addressed by New York City Audubon, our sister chapter to the west. NYC Audubon is a leader in the study of bird collisions with buildings, and is seeking solutions and suggesting remedies to this huge problem. As many as 1 billion birds per year die in the United States alone from flying into buildings, attracted by light at night and by reflections in windows during the daytime. Autumn and spring migrations are particularly deadly. After habitat loss, bird collisions with glass pose the single greatest human-related threat to birds.

Suburbs are not exempt from the problem of bird-building collisions. The average home on Long Island will cause between 1 and 10 bird fatalities a year, and we have tens of thousands of homes here, as well as glass office buildings that can equal the destructiveness of the deadliest buildings in New York City. In fact, the rate of bird collisions with manmade structures is higher in the suburbs than in both urban and rural areas.

This past September, I and my wife, Gail, had the pleasure of attending a bird-collision monitoring workshop given by NYC Audubon at the Bronx Zoo. The program, attended also by members of Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, North Shore Audubon Society, and Capital Region Audubon Society, learned about NYC's Safe Flight program in a very hands-on manner. The workshop was held in a certified green building, the Center for Global Conservation. Unfortunately, though "green" in many respects, the Center contains a great deal of reflective glass. The bird-collision monitor of this particular building at the Zoo led the group around the structure, instructing us on the methods used to find and care for dead and injured birds. This is done for this building and other buildings in the city, to study the effects of architectural elements on bird collisions. Circling the Center for Global Conservation, we actually, unfortunately, discovered two dead birds, two recent deaths from collisions with glass. Statistics gathered at this building and others will hopefully provide answers as to what can be done to make buildings safer for birds. It is ironic, and instructive, that a building such as the Center for Global Conservation can create problems for birds because of the very glass that helps make the building energy efficient.

Humans, fortunately, can lessen the potential harmful nature of our buildings. Bird-collision deaths can be prevented by safer site planning and landscape design. Fixes

can be made to existing buildings through the use of such devices as netting and decals. New types of glass that are less reflective should be used whenever possible. Nighttime lighting, which confuses

and disorients migratory birds, should be kept at a minimum. Buildings are often overlit, and for excessive amounts of time. Hopefully we can lessen the adverse effect on birds produced by increased urbanization, suburbanization, and the concomitant loss of suitable habitat. We must forcefully advocate for policies that foster bird-friendly structures if we are to protect and save those avian species so dear to us.

For more information on this issue of bird collisions, see www.nycaudubon.org.

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.

** 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 (third Tuesday this November) 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. 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.

Our new members since the last Skimmer are:

Bethpage I. R. Shapiro, Annlyn Welles
East Meadow Fred Brunnemer, Erica Howe
Farmingdale Jeremiah Ahern, Hayo Broers

Franklin Square Stephen Skelly

Levittown Donna Lynam Lindenhurst Roland Davidson

Long Beach Marguerite Pawlowski, Hilda Schneider

Massapequa Claudia Auerbach, Florence

Zimmermann

Merrick Barbara Bowker

Plainview Sara V. Gertz

Port Washington Irwin Zuckerman

Seaford Roy Campolongo, Carol Lowinger

Wantagh...... Judith Donadio
West Hempstead Lenore Nemirow

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

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Two Adirondack Lakes – Two Loon Stories

Joe Grupp

Story Two. About a week after Story One of our loon observations (in last month's Skimmer), we were in a canoe on another Adirondack lake. A granddaughter who is entering her junior year in high school was paddling bow and a grandson entering his sophomore year was paddling stern while grandma and grandpa had the luxury seats in the canoe. That is if one can call sitting on the floor of a canoe a luxury. The real luxury was not having to paddle against a somewhat strong wind and the waves that were being pushed towards us by it.

About three-quarters of an hour into our journey, we were nearing the far end of the lake and the calmed waters there that were created by a wind shadow, an area where the wind is blocked by rising land and the forest that grows on it. We were relaxed, enjoying the more placid water, when one of us cried out "What's that? — Loon!" We all easily spotted it as it floated, obviously alert, a relatively short distance off of the side of our canoe.

Ceasing to paddle, we sat mesmerized by the bird and began to pass the one pair of binoculars we brought with us to one another, each of us getting a short look at the bird before passing them on. Through the binoculars, a small, almost imperceptible, bump seemed to appear on the back of the bird. As we floated, the relative position of the bird and canoe changed and the bump revealed itself to be a small, few days old, chick riding on the adult's back.

The adult bird was intent on watching us. Its head was almost stationary as its body turned, until its tail faced us and we surprisingly spotted a second chick floating right next to the adult's tail. As we watched, the adult allowed its tail and the tip of one wing to dip into the water, providing a ramp of sorts between the body and wing of the adult to its back. Then the small chick, with some effort, pulled on the adult's feathers with its beak, scrambled up the ramp onto the adult's back, and settled next to the chick that was already there.

The behavior we witnessed was far from a random happening but part of the loon's life cycle. The chick, when on the adult's back, derives protection from predators from above that may be able to take a small chick but are incapable of dealing with the larger adult. Obviously, the young chick was also out of harm's way from those predators such as snapping turtles, large fish, etc., that attack unseen from under the water.

The chicks also derive a less-obvious benefit from the behavior. Their feathers are not waterproof, but allow the lake's water to reach the skin while the chicks swim. The lake's water being colder than the chicks' normal body temperature and the chicks being very small in size, it would not take long for the chicks' internal temperature to drop and for them to die from exposure if they could not

find refuge on the adult's back until they got older and they molted into a suit of more waterproof feathers.

With the young chicks on its back, the adult called its mournful cry, followed by its wild laughter-like call. We soon realized that a second parent bird was not too far away and alert to our presence. The birds were obviously getting restless and this told us that it was time to paddle on.

Back at camp after dinner, we sat by the campfire chatting about our loon observation and other wild experiences we had shared together. Our talk was made more complete by the toasted marshmallows that became s'mores. We talked on and on until the mosquitoes told us it was time to seek the protection of the tent and the world of sleep.

R. U. Abyrder II

This month I am reviewing an awesome book, an "oldie but goodie." Better yet, it takes place right here on the south shore of Long Island. The time is the late 1920s; the title is The Lord's Woods by Robert Arbib. No, it's not a religious opus but rather a spiritual cry for the future of our natural habitats. This 1971 book won the John Burroughs Association medal as the best natural history book in 1972. It is a perfect read for our own Audubon 2 chapter. The book is an adventure story about Arbib's birdwatching experiences as a youth growing up in Woodmere. The author has a deep concern for the natural world that we are systematically destroying in the name of "progress." The book is a convincing manifesto against the onslaught of developers and other exploiters of our natural environment. It is a very moving appeal and I'm sure you'll agree (I think). Roger T. Peterson said: "This book is the most perceptive piece of writing about the evolution of a young birdwatcher from beginner to hardcore expert that I have ever read." Further, "His writing has a sensual quality usually lacking in the literary attempts of most other writers about birdwatching or birding who give us facts but little feeling." If this review gives you the impetus to run out and read this book about our own region, then I have succeeded!! You will not be disappointed. You will not soon forget his message to all of us. We should all think about our chosen avocation with the same intense passion for our natural world! Read it ... and ENJOY!!!

Editor's note: I asked R. U. (aka Paul) if the book is in print. He responded that he read a hardcover copy but the book was reissued as a paperback (without photos and map) a year ago, is available in libraries, and that he will be bringing copies for us to examine at our meeting.

ANOTHER BROOKLYN WATER WORKS UPDATE

Michael Sperling

On September 8, I was among five members of SSAS's board who attended a meeting of the Landmark Preservation Commission in Freeport's Village Hall. The topic was the revised proposal to develop the 4.2-acre Brooklyn Water Works property on the southern border of SSASmanaged Brookside Preserve. Just prior to the meeting, the revised proposal was modified to increase the 66-foot tall, 362.5-foot wide building's distance from the Preserve to about 14 feet instead of 3 feet 2-1/2 inches, reducing the size of the building so that, according to the architect's calculations, it would occupy 30% of the property (which is the maximum allowed under Section 210 of Freeport's code). As was the case in March, the overwhelming consensus of the audience was that the proposed Waterworks Apartments should be rejected because it would negatively impact the neighborhood and the Preserve.

On October 4, with one Commission member absent and the 60-day decision deadline having already been extended by the developer while the Commission sought legal advice, a 4-4 vote resulted in the proposal being approved by default. SSAS remains hopeful that the property will be preserved as open space; it is listed as a priority acquisition for the remaining funds of Nassau County's 2006 Environmental Bond Act but a willing seller is required.



ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE/CHINCOTEAGUE

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Nov. 3-6). Visit this great wildlife area along the Maryland/Virginia coast. See wild ponies, river otter, red fox, endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, shorebirds & waterfowl plus 20,000+ snow geese. Cost: \$385 includes lodging at Refuge Inn (heated pool, jacuzzi, sauna, exercise room), 5 guided hikes, safari bus tour of back dune areas, plus "all-you-caneat" seafood buffet. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe. WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP (Sat., Nov. 19, 10 A.M. to 1 p.m.). Meet at Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center. View a slide presentation on identification, then hike 1.7 miles around West Pond to look for snow geese, brant, bufflehead, many species of wintering ducks. Contact Don to reserve. Free! HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., Dec. 3, 5-9 P.M.). Join us for our annual holiday fundraiser party at VFW Hall in Broad Channel. Cost: \$55 includes buffet dinner, desserts, wine, beer, soda, plus

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

entertainment (flamenco & exotic dancers). We'll have an "Ugly

Auction," door prizes, and lots of food & drinks. There will be

a nature/bird walk from 3-5 р.м. at nearby Jamaica Bay Refuge. MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 6-8). Seals, seabirds.

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUP SCHEDULED

On Sunday, November 6, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its fall cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine.



Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that was rescued from oblivion and is managed by SSAS. With volunteers help from a state grant, we produced a trail guide, educational freshwater wetland

guide for children, and a video. PDF files of the guides can be downloaded from ssaudubon.org.

The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Please bring gloves, rakes if possible, and friends of all ages.

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Marilyn Hamelz

Animal adaptations and the importance of the natural environment were the theme of South Shore Audubon Society's summer programs enthusiastically enjoyed by more than 130 children. A program presented by SSAS volunteers which focused on the beach environment, and SSAS-sponsored live animal presentations by educators from the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, comprised the two sessions.

Kerry Da Silva, Larry Gumbs, Wendy Murbach, Laurie Raisher, and I presented the beach program, which



included a live hermit crab; a guessing story; examination of sands; handling of shells, egg masses, and live seaweed; and assembling a beach on a display board.

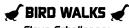
The children were from the Freeport Recreation Center Summer Youth Program and the Hagedorn Summer Camp, a program of Family and Children's Services in Hempstead. Since they had an available bus, the children from the Hagedorn Center were able to visit the TR Sanctuary for the live animal presentation and had the opportunity to walk the trails. In Freeport, the animals were brought to the Center.

^^^^^ CHECK IT OUT

Therese Lucas

There just might be some Audubon wall calendars left! At \$8 each they're going fast. Calendars (Songbirds, Butterflies, National Parks, and Wildflowers) are being sold at our bird walks and general meetings.

SSAS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK.COM — LIKE US!



Steve 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.

Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
State Parkway Exit 18 South, Field #3)
Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
(and Lido Preserve afterwards)
Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
side of Merrick Rd.)
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)
Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

Editor's note: It's been a couple of years since we last ran an article about cats killing birds, an issue that has long been pursued by National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy. For years, SSAS has distributed a pamphlet about this published by the latter, whose website also has a variety of fact sheets. The following is excerpted from a pamphlet produced by Huntington—Oyster Bay Audubon, entitled "Cats Belong Indoors: It's 10:00 AM. Do You Know Where Fluffy Is?"

The Impact of Cats on Wildlife

Many bird populations are in a serious and steep decline due to three major causes: habitat destruction, window-bird collisions, and cat predation. When you add up these losses, the math is chilling. Hundreds of millions of birds are killed by cats each year, and between 100 million and a billion die from window collisions. Factor in habitat loss and you are now looking at an unsustainable loss of these species.

Cats also kill prey animals such as mice, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, and other small mammals, competing with native species such as hawks, owls, foxes, and other larger wild predators that depend on these animals for their survival. Statistics show that the combined numbers of birds and small mammals killed each year by cats is close to one billion. Allowing a well-fed house cat to compete for wild food sources places native predators at a disadvantage. Bottom line: cats are an invasive and alien species and do not belong in our ecosystem.

Why You Should Keep Your Cat Indoors

- * Cats are pets that belong indoors. They are NOT wild animals. They are warm, loving companions, domesticated by humans thousands of years ago.
- * Cats that are allowed outside are more likely to lead shorter lives. Exposure to transmittable and deadly diseases

(such as rabies, feline leukemia, distemper, and FIV), the constant threat of being hit by a car, and being attacked by a dog or a larger predator such as a fox are very real and likely possibilities.

- * Human cruelty. There have been many publicized cases of cats found stabbed, burned, and shot.
- * Cats can make YOU sick. Cats can contract diseases such as rabies and toxoplasmosis, both of which can be transmitted to humans. They also can carry parasites, such as ticks, fleas, and worms, into the home.
- *Cats will kill wildlife no matter how well they are fed. They do not always hunt because they are hungry; they hunt because of an innate urge to hunt.
- * Bells are not a deterrent since wildlife does not recognize the sound of bells as dangerous and most cats will learn to hunt silently, even with the bells.

For the health and happiness of your cat, for the benefit of wild animals, and for your peace of mind, please keep your cat indoors.

And remember... if you are no longer able to care for your cat, do NOT release him outside. Chances are, he will wind up dead. Please take him to your local shelter. For a list of local shelters, see www.longisland.com/animal-shelter.php.

For advice on how to make an outdoor cat a happy indoor cat, go to www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials.html.

For tips on how to transition your cat to the indoors, see www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/bringing_outside_cat_indoors.html.

JAMAICA BAY - A WINNING ADVENTURE

Marilyn Hamelz

At the SSAS Annual Dinner in June, I was the lucky raffle winner of the American Littoral Society Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise, so on September 25 my husband Ivan and I embarked on the "Golden Sunshine."

Mickey Cohen and Don Riepe, who have given wonderful presentations at our SSAS meetings, were the guides on the boat, which cruised from the Sheepshead Bay pier to Jamaica Bay. Their narration included the ecology, the wildlife, and the cultural and natural history of the area.

Nature provided the major presentation. Following a cloudy afternoon, there was a magnificent sunset. During the cruise we got good views of the Peregrine Falcons nesting on the bridge. Bay porpoises "performed," and among the birds "posing," flying, and feeding were egrets, herons, osprey, shorebirds, and waterfowl. We also heard the sounds of the JFK Airport biological controls.

Wine, cheese, soft drinks, fruit, and snacks were provided as part of the delightful cruise.

MIGRATING HAWKS RIDE THE WIND

Michael Givant

Editor's note: The following article originally appeared on October 16, 2009 in Anton Community Newspapers and is reprinted with permission from the author, an SSAS member, whose monthly "A Bird's Eye View" articles also appear on their website. The Fire Island hawk watch's daily and annual data are posted at www.battaly.com/fire.

The sun is up a short while, illuminating the dark brown coat of a grazing white-tailed deer that turns to look at three humans coming into Fire Island. Grasses are shimmering in a stiff breeze that will blow all day across this strip of land with a bay on one side and the ocean on the other. I'm with a small group of observers who will be on a platform, watching and recording migrating raptors all day.

The wind is both a blessing and a curse. Today it is steadily gusting out of the northwest at approximately 15 mph and should bring a lot of avian traffic. That's the blessing. The curse is that with fall temperatures in the mid-sixties its going to feel like winter. My friend Walter, having finished donning several layers of clothing, says "you know that you're dressed for the hawk watch when you can't move." For me it means wearing seven layers, including a thermal hooded sweatshirt topped by a windbreaker.

Peregrine Falcons are 16-inch birds that routinely dive at up to 200 mph and can take prey in midair. Here they generally can be seen at a distance. One, a gray-blue adult, comes over the dunes, taking us by surprise. "We gotta start paying more attention," someone says jokingly. Another is coming in a half-mile away. I lose it momentarily but, true to form, it flies along a dune near the ocean before disappearing.

Late in the afternoon, a veteran hawk-watcher, who says half-jokingly that there are just two types of birds, hawks and hawk food, notes that an approaching Peregrine has a full crop. That is a bulge below the bird's throat and above the stomach, where the Peregrine temporarily stores food. The raptor has swallowed a meal on the run. As a gull comes close to the raptor, everyone calls out as the Peregrine takes a whack at the gull, who moves on.

The Merlin, once referred to as the "pigeon hawk," is a 10-inch falcon that is smaller and thinner than the Peregrine. Early in the morning, one, with the front of its wings billowing out, goes after some glistening black crows. Larger foes, they use the advantage of numbers and chase it away. Another Merlin coming in over the ocean and across the dunes is flying directly in the path of the morning sunlight, which bathes it in a delicate gold hue. However, once out of that sunlight, it appears to turn into a silhouette. They keep coming on a carpet of wind, at times seeming to materialize out of nowhere. Before I know it, one is in the space that a Peregrine just

left and drops like a stone below the dunes. Their speed and diving ability are eye-opening to me.

Suddenly the windsock, next to which I'm standing, screeches from a gust. The sound, like abruptly rising music in a movie, makes me realize that until this moment I've only admired the fast-flapping Merlins. Now I'm taken by them. They're moderate sized, fast, and their long dives are captivating. They don't have the Peregrine's size or its mystique and in comparison can be underappreciated. They're by far the most numerous raptors that we see today. Temporarily this is Merlin country and I've become a fan of theirs.

There's a commotion from our group, which has now grown to ten. "He's goin' after him," someone yells. It is another Merlin, this one chasing a Northern Flicker, which is a colorful woodpecker. The chase is over the dunes and along the ocean's edge. If the Merlin is looking for a meal, the Flicker probably has too much of a lead to be chased down. Merlins, however, don't go hungry. Later in the afternoon there's an ominous-looking black raptor in silhouette flying by the platform. It's a rather odd-looking Merlin. The bird appears to have its head turned down while its legs are bent upwards. Hawk-eyed Ken calls out "Merlin eating." Looking closely, I think I can see that the bird is holding something. Another meal on the run.

The raptors aren't the only ones grabbing something to eat. While I'm having a sandwich, someone yells "Merlin." It is coming, coming, coming closer. The falcon's back and wings are a light gray and its breast and belly appear to have a pale golden hue. When one comes rising up from the dunes, I see a white band on its tail. Steve, a superb birder, tells me that this one is an immature Merlin, noting that on them the band is slightly whiter than on adults. Two Merlins coming toward us are going at each other, perhaps playing. A third one, which was in the scrub near the platform, rises up like a rocket. And so it goes.

Late in the afternoon, a Merlin stops in a tall bare tree a hundred yards from the hawk-watching platform. Now at last I can get binoculars on a perching Merlin. Sure. The bird is partly hidden by the tree's branches. Below is a walkway and some people oblivious to the Merlin are approaching. The raptor wants no part of them and flies. Although I'm disappointed, I realize that this bird wasn't going to pose and today I've come to appreciate it in flight. The Merlins have made my day.

Some nine hours after we arrived, we're getting ready to leave, when a lone monarch butterfly flutters over the platform. Its color is rich; its flight easy. Pleasantly tired, I remember that Muhammad Ali once said, "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." Floating on an emotional high, I think I get the float part. Watching migrating hawks ride the wind gives you a different perspective.

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.

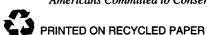
Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

ates: Fr	om	to					
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
				<u> </u>			
				 			
	*						
				 			
		·					
							Ì
							-
							
						<u> </u>	
				Submitted by:			
				Address:			
				Phone number:			
							•
				Please send to: Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 1155			
						or	
						E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@	yaoi.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

2011-2012 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Jim Brown, President & Conservation 432-8156
Marilyn Hametz, Vice President & Publicity 799-7189
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer 536-4808
Don Temple, Recording Secretary 420-1244
Therese Lucas, Corresponding Secretary
& Greening of Long Island 221-3921
Kerry Da Silva, Director (6/14) 432-1727
Steven Schellenger, Director (6/14), Field Trips
& Brookside Preserve Co-Chairperson 987-8103
John Gaglione, Director (6/13) & Programs 731-5012
Richard Kopsco, Director (6/13) & Brookside
Preserve Co-Chairperson 825-6792
Betty Borowsky, Education 764-3596
Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications 671-7685
Joseph Grupp, Research
Betsy Gulotta, College Scholarships 546-8841
Elliott Kutner, Birding Consultant 486-7667
Wendy Murbach, Membership 546-6303
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 \$20 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.

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

> > > > > > > > > >					
Yes, I'd like to join: SSAS only	☐ National Audubon too				
NAME:					
ADDRESS:					
	(Zip+4 if known)				
PHONE NO.:					
E-MAIL:					
Chapter Code C1ZR150Z (South S	hore Audubon Society)				