

bird life due to the fall migration. I have begun to see less of South Shore Audubon's signature bird, the Black Skimmer. During the height of the summer, one can see them flying in their unique graceful way from the bay to their nesting area along the ocean beach and back again. Summer in this area is also now packed with Ospreys (pictured). Numerous Ospreys can frequently be seen eating their fish high up above you on the flat, level tops of the lampposts along the sides of the highways. Now the numbers of both skimmers and Ospreys are rapidly decreasing, as these birds head south along the Atlantic Flyway, toward Florida in the case of skimmers and South America in the case of the most enterprising Ospreys. Fall is again approaching.



Another type of movement also begins in the fall when children return to school. Traffic along the streets and parkways increases and is joined by numerous buses and cars of parents, teachers, and in some cases high school students. My commute to work generally takes longer during the school year than at other times. But when I am stopped by traffic, perhaps waiting for a school bus along Lido Boulevard to pick up or discharge a group of students, I sometimes think about the fact that these young people are those principally for whom we, as environmentalists and stewards of bird life, are working for, to pass along a healthy environment to them as a lasting legacy. These young people are also, in reality, those who will hopefully become the environment's stewards in the future.

It's not easy for the younger generations, bombarded as they are by so much technology, artificiality, and even virtuality! When I was a child, I was in constant contact with the natural world — even though I lived in a small city, I was not far from creeks, fields, pastures, and woods with all the abundant wildlife they provided. I was also fortunate in that my parents and extended family of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins loved the outdoors and activities — in the early TV days — like camping and hiking. I am sure this early exposure to the joys of nature is a common experience for most current members of our Audubon chapter.

That is why it is so gratifying when I see young people on our bird walks, and young people coming to some of our meeting programs (especially to see live animals and birds!). It is good to see students help with a Brookside Preserve cleanup and invasive species removal. Environment-oriented parties for children at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve are creative events that children appreciate. One often reads that the many students of today have less exposure and interest in nature. It is probably, unfortunately, true. For that reason, activities of our chapter that can attract the young are so important. In a positive sense, an important goal of our chapter is to help create and motivate future environmental stewards. Our support of a summer environmental camp and our offer-

ing of scholarship awards to high school and college students are so important in this critical context.

Our chapter plays an important role in bringing environmental education, and a love of nature and wildlife, to young Long Islanders. Let us continue and even expand, when possible, our efforts in reaching the young. The future of the environment demands it!



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. 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.

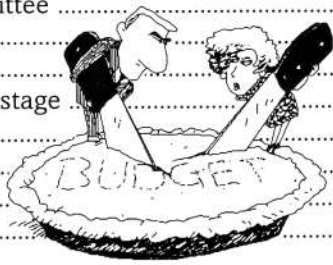
Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin..... Lynn & Anthony Parisi
- Bellmore Judith Gerber
- Bethpage Jacob Antoninis
- East Meadow Joan Evans, Harold Lieberman
- Floral Park..... Silvio Alesandrini, Linda Falacara,
Annemarie Palagonia
- Freeport..... Gloria E. Giannuzzi
- Garden City Nancy Orosz, Gwendolyne Rogers
- Hicksville Donald O'Callaghan
- Levittown Janis Abrams
- Long Beach Patrick Gallagher, Mary A.
Mazzola
- Lynbrook Lew McCurdy, Rosemary Shields
- Malverne Amelia Cossentino, Edith J. Foley,
Maria Thomas
- Massapequa Marianne Herbst
- Massapequa Park Susan Martin
- Merrick Gail Goodstein, Barbara Taubleb
- Plainview Murray Cohen, Diane Weiss
- Rockville Centre Janet Matthews, Joan M. Moret
- Seaford Robert Sauer
- Valley Stream Julie Roberts
- Wantagh George Guggisberg, Pat Turchi



BUDGET 2013-2014

Annual Dinner	\$2,100
Bank Fees	\$50
Brookside Preserve	\$100
College Scholarships	\$1,500
Conferences	\$1,000
Conservation	\$100
Donations	\$500
Education	\$100
Festivals	\$250
Greening of Long Island	\$2,000
High School Scholarships	\$1,000
Insurance	\$1,200
Library	\$900
Membership Committee	\$150
Membership Dues	\$210
Miscellaneous	\$200
Office Expenses/Postage	\$3,000
Publicity	\$175
Refreshments	\$300
Skimmer	\$3,500
Speakers	\$1,000
TR Camp	\$5,000
Total	\$24,335



◆◆◆◆◆ VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982
 ◆◆◆◆◆ NASSAU COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE 571-6306
 ◆◆◆◆◆

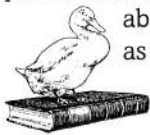
BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

R. U. Abyrdar II

As I was thinking about my next book to review, I happened on an excellent "Nature" episode on PBS, now airing for six Wednesday nights, called "EarthFlight: a Nature Special Presentation." As I was watching, it occurred to me that a wonderful book to review this month, in the midst of fall migration, would be *How Birds Migrate* by the noted ornithologist Paul Kerlinger. This is the perfect time to present a book such as this to our South Shore Audubon members.

This is an exciting and informative book, the perfect primer for us concerning the questions we all must have about bird migration. The author is a scientist as well as an avid birder. He has a true passion for the hobby we love. Bird migration is a remarkable phenomenon. This is a well-organized book built around scientific theories.

His chapters are interesting and thoroughly informative. For instance, the chapter on "Finding the Way" is especially so. Questions such as why do birds take straight-line routes versus great circle ones are particularly insightful. This book is easy to read and, while containing a huge amount of detail, will be interesting to all of us. The author covers topics such as why birds migrate, how scientists



study migration, why some birds migrate by day and some by night, why rest stops are so important for bird survival during migration, how birds find their way, and how high they fly and why — and, much, much more!

I was especially fascinated with the chapter on bird flight; this is a very complex topic and not easy to understand, but the author does a great job in explaining it to the layperson (that's me!). I also liked the chapter on conservation of migratory species; this topic is getting increased attention from ornithologists and leading birding organizations.

The main focus of this book is on North American and European species. In truth, most migration research has been done on these two continents. Mr. Kerlinger often discusses migration from an evolutionary point of view and explains, as well, where there are still gaps in our knowledge of bird migratory evolution. This is a very educational book with many anecdotes and case studies that are easy to read. He knows this topic in great depth.

Some noted birders have recently observed that migration, as we know it, will eventually disappear. Not in the next 10 years, but in our lifetime it will fade away. The migration events that thrill us all, each fall and spring, will be diminished beyond recognition. These marvelous spectacles will become things of the past! How sad. This is a fascinating book about the when, where, why, and how of bird migration. Wonderful bits of scientific findings become available to each and every one of us. So, if you like to read mysteries, especially those concerning bird migration, this is a wonderful place to begin that journey. Read it and enjoy!

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CIRCLE THE DATE

Therese Lucas

You can do that now on your 2013 calendar. For 2014, the perfect solution is an Audubon calendar. They are being offered by South Shore Audubon at a reduced price of \$9.00 each. They will be available starting at the October bird walks and the general meeting, and will continue as supplies last. The assortment will include Songbirds, Wildflowers, and National Parks.



SSAS CALENDAR 2013-2014

September 2013

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Sept. 22, 29

October 2013

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library
"Bird Migration Across the Gulf of Mexico"
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7:30 P.M.
New York/New Jersey Audubon Fall Meeting
Woodcliff Lake, NJ, Oct. 18-20
Global Frackdown
Saturday, Oct. 19, incl. Long Beach Boardwalk

November 2013

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library
"Birds & Climate Change"
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 P.M.
Brookside Fall Cleanup
Sunday, Nov. 17, 1 P.M.

December 2013

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 P.M.
Tackapausha Children's Holiday Party
Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 P.M.

January 2014

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library
Members' Night
Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 P.M.

February 2014

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 P.M.

March 2014

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 P.M.
New York State Audubon Council Spring Meeting
Saratoga Springs, March 21-23

April 2014

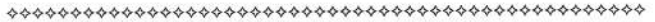
Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
April 6, 13, 20, 27
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 P.M.

May 2014

Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
May 4, 11, 18
Central Park Bird Walk
Saturday, May 3
Birdathon
Friday, May 9 from 5 P.M. till dark
Saturday, May 10 until 5 P.M.
General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library (TBA)
Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 P.M.

June 2014

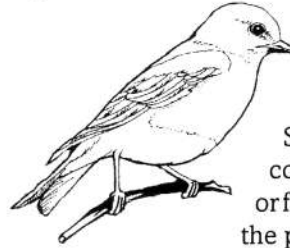
Bird Walks, Sundays, 9:30 A.M.
June 1, 8
Annual Dinner
Pompei Restaurant, West Hempstead
Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 P.M.



BLUEBIRD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN BETHPAGE

Jim Brown

Bethpage State Park Assistant Golf Superintendent Kathie Wegman and birdbander Susan Harwood are seeking volunteers to help with an important bluebird project at the park. The two women attend 29 nest boxes at the park and band Eastern Bluebird (pictured) and Tree Swallow chicks. When I was contacted in June, there were four or five breeding pairs of bluebirds in the park. Ms. Wegman will be retiring soon and there will be a need to obtain an assistant to help Ms. Harwood, the licensed birdbander. Part of the volunteer job, to begin next year, would be to drive Ms. Harwood via golf cart throughout the five golf courses at Bethpage as she attends to the nest boxes. The season runs from April through August, usually one day per week, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.



This would be a wonderful opportunity to learn about and experience birdbanding firsthand, helping in the important task of maintaining the population of our state bird, the Eastern Bluebird. If you are interested, get in touch with Kathie at 631-316-1173. She will arrange to explain and show potential volunteers all that would be involved at Bethpage State Park. It sounds like a great opportunity!



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



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: From _____ to _____							
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
Submitted by: _____							
Address: _____							
Phone number: _____							
Please send 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

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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 by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 from these dues 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 (the approx. \$3/year we get per member is not based on renewals).



Donations to SSAS are always welcome! \$_____

Yes, I'd like to join: SSAS only National Audubon too

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ (Zip+4)

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code C3ZR150Z (South Shore Audubon Society)

