

cabbage, garlic mustard, jewelweed, English ivy, common mullein, sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry, marginal shield fern, common reed, bugleweed, nut grass, field speedwell, wood anemone, Jack-in-the-pulpit, spearmint, sassafras, swamp buttercup, rough cinquefoil, wintercress, cinnamon fern, lady fern, hay-scented fern, blackberry, wild black cherry, wild strawberry, birdfoot trefoil, swamp sweetbell, arrow-leaved tearthumb, bluecurl, blue-stem grass, Canada mayflower, marsh violet, common cinquefoil, lesser celandine, nettled chain fern, sensitive fern, Virginia creeper, and wild grape.

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). Bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends (young and old).

Brookside Maintainers Needed. If you're interested in helping to maintain the preserve in between our cleanups, please contact your *Skimmer* editor at 541-0805 (evenings) or send e-mail to him at mssperling@compuserve.com, and the Brookside Committee will get in touch with you. The preserve would benefit from some Eagle Scout projects, too, perhaps including work on its boardwalk.

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



BIRD WALKS
 Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains or snows. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Oct. 27 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 3* Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Nov. 10* Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Nov. 17 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 24 Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
- Dec. 1 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Dec. 8 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Dec. 15 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Dec. 22 & 29 *Season's Greetings* — No Walks

*Please note: We anticipate that a \$5 "vehicle use fee" will be charged after 8:00 A.M. at Jones Beach through Thanksgiving. We recommend that you carpool, especially with someone who has a New York State Parks Empire Passport.

GREENING OF JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

On October 19, weather permitting, \$3000 worth of white pines, red cedars, beach plums, and shadbush, financed by a grant from SSAS's *Greening of Long Island* fund, were planted near JBWR's Visitor Center. This year's federal budget for Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge did not include any money for replacing the hundreds of Japanese black pines that have succumbed recently due to attacks by a combination of black turpentine beetles, blue-stain fungi, pine sawyers, and pinewood nematodes. However, thanks to our members' response to our annual *Greening* appeal (which we've skipped in 2002), we were able to add sixty wildlife-friendly plants at Jamaica Bay.

WWW.EBIRD.ORG

If you're jotting down bird sightings for Joe Grupp's research committee (see page 7) and have Web access too, you may want to add your data to eBird. The site says:

Many birders keep excellent records. They faithfully count the birds they identify and record their sightings along with locations and dates. What's more, each of these sightings is important, because each one is a vital piece of information in the quest to better understand birds. Where do different species breed or winter? When do they migrate? Are their numbers increasing or decreasing? Are their geographic ranges shifting? These important questions can be answered, but only if the millions of sightings made by bird watchers each year can be collected into one place where they can be stored, accessed, and used by other birders, scientists, and conservationists who are helping to solve the puzzle of North American bird populations.

That's why the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society are pleased to introduce eBird. This online checklist project allows you to enter all your bird sightings into a powerful database that you can use to keep track of all your North American birding information, and that other birders and scientists can use to study and protect bird populations. Whether you are a backyard birder, student, teacher, or scientist, you are welcome to explore the eBird database, discover what birds are being seen at different locations, and add your own observations to the growing database.

You'll have fun keeping track of your bird sightings with eBird. You can easily determine your life list, your yard list, your year list, or any other list in which you may be interested. Along with keeping count of what, where, and when you saw the species, you can look to see how populations of "your" birds may be changing.



We welcome any and all birders! All that matters is that, each time you identify a bird, you submit your observation to the project, where it can help in scientific and conservation efforts.

**NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, PA**

Joe Grupp

Three-thousand two-hundred seventy hawks are a lot of hawks passing by in one day! When 3165 are Broad-winged Hawks, it is really a lot of broad-wings! While every day may not be as productive as those numbers indicate, they are the numerical picture of one day, September 20, 2002, in the show that nature puts on along the mountain ridges of eastern Pennsylvania during the annual fall migration observed at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, PA. Hawk Mountain, as it is usually called, is about 25 miles north of Reading and about 160 miles from the South Shore Audubon Society area.

We were not too far along a wide dirt-packed trail through a hardwood forest when we overheard the word "broad-wings" for the first time. As we approached South Lookout, an opening on a rock ledge that overlooks a valley and then along a ridge, we heard it again and again from the Hawk Mountain interpreter and the six or seven other people hawk-watching there. It was the beginning of what for us would be a broad-wing day, as the number of all other species of hawks (the term being used here in its widest sense, including all raptors, etc.) passing that day was only 105 birds.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary was established in response to the then-negative attitude toward hawks, which were considered to be vermin to the extent that bounties were paid for some species and many farmers did not hesitate to shoot any raptor that they felt was threatening their chickens and/or other livestock. The ledges of the Hawk Mountain ridge became perches from which gunners, for sport, could shoot at low-flying migrating hawks. The resulting carnage destroyed great numbers of birds, which represented a significant portion of the raptor population that spent summers nesting to the north and were now migrating to their wintering grounds.

In response to the sport shooting and an increasing conservation awareness, the property where so many hawks were killed was purchased through the efforts of a prominent conservationist, Mrs. Rosalie Edge, and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary was born in 1934. Maurice Braun, the first manager of the sanctuary, made the first hawk counts that year, as well as posting the property to prevent the hunting of hawks and confronting those gunners who disregarded the posted notices. He and his wife Irma were a perfect team, and from their collective management skills and caring personalities the young sanctuary grew. Today this world-renowned sanctuary has many activities and is internationally recognized for hawk-watching and raptor research.

We spent little time at South Lookout and walked as quickly as is prudent along the rocky one-mile trail that terminates in a rock-hewn stairs up a steep rise onto the large ledge of jumbled boulders that is North Lookout,

where the official observer is stationed and the official count recorded. I smile as hawks are gliding past and we manage to find a not very comfortable seat on the rocks of the ledge; the comfortable rocks (comfortable rocks?) are already occupied by the many watchers that arrived before us.

The hawks materialize, out of the haze of the day, well down the ridge that extends out before us. When they do so in numbers, it is usually in a kettle — a number of birds circling in a rising column of air, beating their wings only occasionally to find the rising air, and then wings outstretched they circle, circle, circle, rising with the air. In one kettle I count 20 birds, in another 42, and in another I'm distracted at 80. When the uppermost birds of the kettle reach a certain altitude, they stream off the top of the kettle and effortlessly glide towards us, in twos, threes, or more, parallel to the ridge and many times right over us. Late in the morning, I overhear the official counter give his hourly report to headquarters and know that 421 broad-wings passed along the ridge that hour. That's an average of seven broad-wings a minute. Impressive!



The flights are not continuous but frequent, and by 2 P.M. the broad-wing numbers dwindle and our attention shifts to other migrants. The day passes and we leave as the light begins to fade, knowing that we did not see all the hawks counted, but confident we saw half and probably more. We make the long ride home, satisfied and impressed at nature's show on this broad-wing day at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

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BIRDSEED SALE REMINDER

On **Sunday, November 3**, from 9:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M., SSAS will be in Tackapausha's parking lot (on Washington Avenue in Seaford) for our annual birdseed sale. It's too late to preorder, but some extra seed will be available on the sale day (we suggest you come early if you didn't preorder). As usual, we will be selling black oil and striped sunflower, mixed seeds, cracked corn, sunflower chips (no shells), peanut hearts, safflower, nyjer (thistle), and suet cakes. Help will be needed and much appreciated on the sale date; no purchase required to volunteer!

HALLOWEEN PARTY REMINDER

Our annual Halloween Party at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve will be (was?) held on **Saturday, October 26th** from 1 to 3 P.M. The activities include nature-oriented crafts, the return of Magic Bob's magic show, and, of course, treats (hopefully no tricks). This is an ideal event for you to bring your children or grandchildren. The more volunteers, the better; please call Therese Lucas at 221-8654 if you can help out.



WAYS TO REDUCE JUNK MAIL

Your *Skimmer* editor did a bit of surfing recently in order to check out current options for getting your name removed from some major junk-mail lists. The options below won't discourage organizations you support from selling your name, but they will keep your name off the most widely circulated commercial lists. Remember the environmentalists' three R's, in order of effectiveness: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

Experian. The following's from www.experian.com/consumer/index.html (click on "Privacy" in top right corner and then on the "Opting Out" tab). Experian holds "more demographic and credit information on individuals and businesses than any other company in the world."

Responsible marketing companies respect your choice to not receive direct mail advertising. Direct Marketing Association (DMA) members, as a condition of membership, are required to suppress the names and addresses of individuals who have notified the DMA that they do not want to receive advertising by mail.

If you would like to opt out of direct mail advertising, send your complete name and address to:

DMA Mail Preference Service
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As a DMA member, Experian subscribes to and suppresses any name and address on the DMA's Mail Preference Service file from its direct mail marketing lists.

You also may contact Experian directly to be suppressed from Experian's marketing lists by calling us toll-free at 800-407-1088 or by sending your complete name (including any name variations), mailing address, and complete telephone number (including area code) to:

Experian Consumer Services
901 West Bond Street
Lincoln, NE 68521

Please specify if you wish to be removed from mailing lists or telemarketing lists.

You can remove your name from prescreened credit or insurance offer mailing lists from Experian, Innovis, TransUnion, and Equifax by calling 888-5OPT-



OUT (888-567-8688). You will be given a choice to opt out for two years or permanently. If you elect to opt out permanently, you will be mailed a "Notice of Election to Opt Out Permanently," which you must sign and return to activate your permanent opt out. Even though your request becomes effective with Experian within five days of your notifying us, it may take several months before you see a reduction in the amount of solicitations.

Direct Marketing Association. The DMA's own Web site, <http://www.dmaconsumers.org>, includes a registration form that can be sent to a different post office box in Carmel, NY (take your pick). The following information is from their site.

To receive less commercial advertising mail, you can register for the DMA's Mail Preference Service (MPS), which allows you to opt out of national mailing lists.

Please note: The DMA does not provide marketers with consumer mailing lists or do consumer mailings. Rather, the Mail Preference Service is available to companies for the sole purpose of removing your name and address from their mailing lists. This service does not apply to mail sent to your business address.

The registration form will allow you to significantly reduce the amount of unsolicited national advertising you receive at home.

When you register with MPS, your name and address are placed in a "do not mail" file. All DMA members are required to run their list of prospective customers against the MPS file, to remove the individuals who have registered with MPS from their mailings. The service is also available to non-members of the DMA, so that all marketers may take advantage of this service to eliminate the names of those who wish to receive less unsolicited mail.

This "do not mail" file is updated monthly and distributed four times a year — January, April, July, and October. Your name remains on file for five years. Typically you will see the amount of mail you receive begin to decrease approximately three months after your name is entered onto the quarterly file. If you move, you must register your new address with MPS to have it affect your new address.

Although registration with MPS will help to reduce the amount of unsolicited mail that you receive, it will not stop all unsolicited mail. You may continue to receive mail from companies with which you already do business and from non-DMA organizations which do not use MPS. In addition, you may continue to receive mail from local merchants, professional and alumni associations, political candidates, office holders, and mail addressed to "occupant" or "resident."

There is a \$5 processing fee for registering with the MPS service online. You will need a valid credit card to register online. This is the fastest way to begin to see the reduced mailing results of the MPS program.

You may also register using our mail-in form, which we will create for you using the information you provide online. There is no charge for registering by mail.

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

The Research Committee is conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS geographical area and to make some estimates as to their numbers. We request input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this program, we would greatly appreciate it.

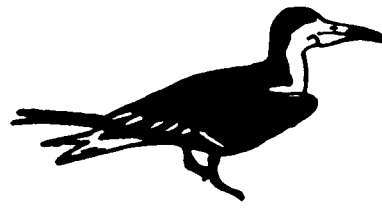
To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper 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. Double-sided 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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Americans Committed to Conservation



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Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. 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 a first-year bonus for recruiting you). If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter, please mail the following form and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to us at South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors. Gift memberships help too; we will ask that non-local recipients be assigned to their own local chapter if you prefer.

Option 2. You can subscribe to the *Skimmer* for a year by sending \$10 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** to us at the address above.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.



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