VOLUME 40, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2010

NEXT MEETING

Enid Klein

DATE:

Tuesday, , February 9, 2010

TIME:

7:30 р.м.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Joe Landesberg

TOPIC:

Costa Rica: Piano and Rainforest

At our next monthly meeting, SSAS's very own Joe Landesberg will be presenting a program featuring the DVD entitled "Simbiosis." In it, a pianist, the rainforest. and a camera allow us to become privileged spectators of the symbiosis between nature and music. Pianist Manuel Obregón and filmmaker José Cortés combined their talents to offer a concert in the very heart of the rainforest of Monteverde, located southwest of Lake Arenal. We will have the interplay of music, images of Costa Rica's rich rainforest, and views of the native inhabitants.

Joe is a Professor of Chemistry at Adelphi University. He and his wife travel during their vacation time and recently visited Costa Rica, where they encountered the rainforest and the myriad plants and birds of that region. For more about Joe, see page 6.

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: *************************

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year 2010 to you all!!!!!!

We have a new Nassau County Executive, Edward Mangano, and we are hoping that he will be environmentally friendly to Nassau parks, preserves, beaches. and open spaces, and that he will carefully consider the environmental impact of all laws, policies, and projects.

We've had a lot of snow and some very cold weather. Some of us think that's not so terrible and are out birding anyway; some of us are very happy to be looking out the windows at our feeders and seeing birds enjoying what we have given them to eat. There has been a lively discussion on South Shore Audubon's listsery about our backyard birds. If you would like to join the discussion. you need to be a listed member. Go to our website (ssaudubon.org), stay on the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and you will see an icon for our Yahoo! Group. Enter an e-mail address and click on "Join now!" The host of the listserv will send you a confirmation e-mail (not right away though) and you can then begin to join in the dialogue.

South Shore Audubon runs bird walks all year long (with a short break in nesting season to give the birds time to raise their young in peace), so we are out there looking at birds on Sundays. Winter is the time for ducks — beautiful creatures, colorful, and much easier to see floating in the water than are the tiny warblers of springtime flitting way up in high trees behind newly sprouted leaves. Ducks are good birds for novice birders to start learning about. Our Vice President, Steve Schellenger, leads our walks and he will be taking us to the best places in our area for winter birds. Please join him, 9:30 A.M. on Sundays.

Additionally, John Gaglione will be leading a special walk at Sunken Meadow State Park on Saturday, February 27th at 9:30 A.M. At Sunken Meadow one can see Long Island Sound, marsh, brackish pond, and woods — many different habitats. I hope to see many of you there.

And for those of you looking out your windows, don't forget to fill out and send in the forms for Joe Grupp's backyard bird research.

Have a Healthy, Happy, Prosperous, and Green New Year.

All the best, Wendy Murbach



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

VALENTINE'S DAY HIKE: FOR THE LOVE OF DUCKS (Sun., Feb. 14). Meet 10 A.M. at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for slide program and hike around ponds and gardens to look for winter birds and waterfowl. For reservations, contact Don.

EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT JAMAICA BAY (Sat., March 27). Join naturalist Don Riepe at 10 A.M. for slide program & hike to look for phoebes, ibis, egrets, oystercatchers, other early migrants. Call refuge to reserve at (718) 318-4340 or Littoral Society.

MERRITT ISLAND REFUGE, FLORIDA (Apr. 17–24). Visit this great refuge along with Cape Canaveral National Seashore, Fort DeSoto State Park, Viera Wetlands, and Orlando Wetlands during peak spring bird migration. See many Florida specialties, including whooping and sandhill cranes, Florida scrub jay, painted bunting, roseate spoonbill, crested caracara, as well as manatees, armadillos, many butterflies, and reptiles/amphibians.

STERLING FOREST WARBLERS (Sun., May 2). See goldenwinged, blue-winged, hooded, cerulean and other warbler species. Hike around a scenic lake only 1-hour north of New York City.

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

★★ 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.

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–	since the last Skimmer are:
Atlantic Beach	
	Peter Bertash, Gladys Schwartz
	Martha Chamberlain, Michael
	Kelly, Harold Studer
Cedarhurst	
	Andrea Kalman, Theodora
Last Meadow	Zavala
East Rockaway	Richard Ettlinger, Peter Radics,
	Michelle Weinman
Farmingdale	Virginia Nanni
	Elizabeth Donlon, Steve
	Mikowski, David Paris
Garden City	Corinne Connolly, Gerald
Mil	Goldberg, Jack M. Marshall,
3 5	Margaret Menger, Stephanie
more	Wise
Glen Oaks	
Hempstead	
Hewlett	
	William C. Brodmerkel, Mary
THERS VIHC	Cavallo, Linda Kaprinski, Geeta
	Khale, Suzanne Walsh
Lawrence	
Levittown	
Lido Beach	•
Long Beach	Martha Bellantoni, Patricia Flynn,
	Amy Goldenberg, Shauna L.
	Spicer
Lynbrook	Arlyne Barschow, Desiree
, cr	Burton, Jesse Combs,
	Geraldine Coney, Richard
	Zimmerman
Malverne	Natasha Feduik, Henry Herb,
	Jeanne Smythe
	Joseph Giacoppo, Anita
	Halberstadt
Merrick	
	Marian Abruzzo, Bobby Cirino,
	Perri M. Lembo
	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno
Plainview	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman
Plainview Point Lookout	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman John Krush, Rebecca Krush
Plainview Point Lookout	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman
Plainview Point Lookout Rockville Centre	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman John Krush, Rebecca Krush Terry Bain, Ann Ferrara, Jessica Sherwood
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Plainview	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman John Krush, Rebecca Krush Terry Bain, Ann Ferrara, Jessica Sherwood Denise Kingsbury, Ruth Mask
Plainview	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman John Krush, Rebecca Krush Terry Bain, Ann Ferrara, Jessica Sherwood Denise Kingsbury, Ruth Mask Eugene Orange, Barbara F.
Plainview	Perri M. Lembo Lori Raffaniello, Dennis Salerno Linda Landman John Krush, Rebecca Krush Terry Bain, Ann Ferrara, Jessica Sherwood Denise Kingsbury, Ruth Mask Eugene Orange, Barbara F. Stenson

Tudda

Woodmere Manuel Finkelstein



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.

Jan. 24	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and Lido Preserve afterwards)
Jan. 31	Massapequa Lake*
Feb. 7	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Feb. 14	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
Feb. 21	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
	(and Lido Preserve afterwards)
Feb. 28	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 7	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 14	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
	side of Merrick Rd.)
Mar. 21	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
	(and Lido Preserve afterwards)
Mar. 28	Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)

*Note: For Massapequa Lake (the southern end of Massapequa Preserve), use street parking on westbound side of Merrick Road, west of Lake Shore Blvd.

COUNTY'S OPEN SPACE AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS BOOTED

Shortly after losing the recount in his campaign for reelection as Nassau County Executive, Tom Suozzi removed four members of the nine-member Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC), including George Peters, who had been appointed through the efforts of County Legislator David Denenberg circa 2004, while George was president of SSAS. The Committee was created in 2001 by the unanimous approval of the County Legislature and has a say in every open-space purchase and sale in our county.

Suozzi, with assistance from the presiding officer of the County Legislature, Diane Yatauro (now the minority



leader), took advantage of an ignored rule that requires the reappointment of OSPAC members every two years. In place of George, Rich Schary, Monte Leeper, Charles Bevilacqua, and an

existing vacancy, they appointed county employees whose work has involved open space. As of when this is being typed, it is unclear if proper procedures were followed in the replacement of the four members.

BIRD WALK MEMORIES

Don Temple

Although I have been participating in SSAS bird walks for only several years and, to be honest, have much to learn, it recently occurred to me that I already have garnered many great memories from these events.

I will not soon forget a large Snowy Owl flying out over the Atlantic at Point Lookout in a pea-soup fog after tolerating our gazes for too long. Earlier memories include a Red-tailed Hawk diving with talons extended over Norman J. Levy Preserve in Merrick and my first Yellow-shafted (Northern) Flicker there. Observing comical Bufflehead ducks (pictured), American Coots, stalking Great Blue Herons, and almost-tame Tree Swallows chirping at me at Jamaica Bay, as well as a large flock of

American Oystercatchers beaching at Jones Beach West End, were magical moments. I remember my first Horned Lark there, a masterful Peregrine Falcon

and little Ruddy Ducks at Mill Pond, and Glossy Ibises at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area.

How can I forget the Great Horned Owl stoically watching a pair of crows attempting to harass it and a large bee colony thriving in a tree trunk, both seen at Hempstead Lake State Park? Also appreciated there were its busy Downy Woodpeckers, pristine-colored Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and a pair of Double-crested Cormorants on a pond platform, one on each side of a large slider turtle and all enjoying the sun.

I can recall all those coy, doglike seals I saw bobbing their heads in beach and bay winter waters to see who was around, and the Osprey I saw carrying a fish backward. And what about that raccoon observed soundly sleeping high in a tree at Massapequa Preserve? When I sometimes have trouble sleeping at night, all I need do is think about the many jewellike and very busy warblers seen at Central Park and the next thing I know is that a new day is dawning.

Unlike many birders, I prefer to focus primarily on enjoying the moment rather than increasing my count, and can watch migrating Eastern Phoebes and observe the yellow tail bars on flocks of Cedar Waxwings for a good amount of time. I am not embarrassed to say that the majestic Great Black-backed Gull is one of my favorites and that our very common Mallard ducks, the females courted by males with their little mating water dances and peeps, are truly lovely creatures.

Special thanks for these experiences go to our very instinctive walk leader Steve Schellenger and to Elliott Kutner, who paved the way for me, as well as to Joe Landesberg, Joe Grupp, John Gaglione, Scott Oglesby, and many other SSAS members who so generously share their knowledge.

Enjoy the moments! These are experiences that money cannot buy but participating in SSAS bird walks can. You will be welcomed most warmly.

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OUR HOG ISLAND CAMP RAFFLE CONTINUES!

In the last issue of the Skimmer, SSAS announced that we're offering a full scholarship to this summer's six-day Audubon camp on Hog Island in midcoast Maine. For \$1 per chance at our February and March general meetings, there's still time for you to enter. The lucky winner will be drawn at our March meeting but need not be present. He or she is responsible for arranging transportation to attend the Field Ornithology program from June 20-25, described as follows at www.audubon.org/bird/puffin/ OrnithCamps.html:

"Take a week of riveting field trips to habitats as diverse as offshore puffin islands, windswept blueberry barrens, lush grasslands, and sphagnum bog forests. Add some of the most respected bird experts in the country, and you have Field Ornithology on Hog Island – a layman's exploration of all things avian, from basic bird biology to nesting behavior, songs, migration, and conservation. Learn in small-group settings from pros like field guide author Kenn Kaufman, ornithologist Sara Morris, author Scott Weidensaul, and famed sound recordists Lang Elliott and Greg Budney, as they teach everything from bird-banding techniques to bird photography to birdsong recording."

Here's some information about Hog Island, provided by Audubon's Chapter Services office:

The National Audubon Society will reopen its legendary Hog Island for four adult ornithology sessions and one teen bird studies session during the summer of 2010. Dr. Steve Kress, Audubon's VP for Bird Conservation, will direct the sessions. He will be joined by some of the country's top ornithologists, who will serve as instructors, including Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Scott Weidensaul. Known to

thousands as the Audubon Camp in Maine, Hog Island was closed during the summer of 2009 to permit planning for the future. This process led to Project Puffin bringing back the popular ornithology programs for adults and teens. The adult programs are for both beginning and avid birders who would like to learn more about Maine bird life and the biology of birds. The teen session is for 14-17 year olds with a keen interest in birds and is cosponsored by the American Birding Association.

Due to its varied habitats, Hog Island and vicinity are an ideal setting for the program, as more than 100 species frequent the area. Participants live in authentic, turn-ofthe-century housing on the 330-acre spruce-covered island. Here they will enjoy three home-cooked meals a day in an historic island farmhouse that overlooks Muscongus Bay. During the sessions, small field groups will go on a variety of trips and boat cruises, and attend workshops and presentations on topics ranging from migration and the identification of warblers to the restoration of Atlantic Puffins (pictured) and terns on nearby Eastern Egg Rock. The Hog Island camp first opened in 1936, with Roger Tory Peterson as its first bird instructor. It is well-known in America's environmental community as a distinguished and beautiful place of learning and enjoyment.

SUNKEN MEADOW STATE PARK FIELD TRIP

^

John Gaglione

On Saturday, February 27, from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M., South Shore Audubon will have a free bird walk at Sunken Meadow in search of winter birds and waterfowl. We will explore two distinct habitats, from the boardwalk overlooking Long Island Sound and on a dirt path around a pond bordered by a wooded area. We will meet prior to the walk time in the northwest area of the main parking lot, in front of the main field house. Dress appropriately; severe weather or snow cancels the walk.

Editor's note: The birds checklist for the 1,200-acre park lists the following species as common or abundant in winter: Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Gadwall, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, American Coot, Sanderling, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Whitebreasted Nuthatch, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, and House Sparrow.

Directions: Take Sunken Meadow State Parkway north to the end and proceed into the park. For more information, you can call me at 731-5012 or Joanne Del Prete at 433-0739 before 9 P.M. We hope you all can join us on this special winter field trip. The possibility of meeting for lunch afterwards is being discussed.

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070 ************************************ VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (631) 423-0982

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Three Good Observations

Joe Grupp

Not every time one goes into the field, to a park, preserve, or other natural area, is one lucky enough to find a bird or an action by a bird or birds that adds a certain amount of excitement to the trip. Many times the trip is routine, especially if one is familiar with the area. That does not mean it is uninteresting, but rather just sort of the same as the other times when birding there. Once in a while, however, there is a bird and/or an observation that is interesting or exciting enough so that you feel that it was a good observation and that you were lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time to observe it. On the Research Committee's weekly avian population survey, at Hempstead Lake State Park on December 10, 2009, we were lucky to have made not one but three of those good observations.

Well into the survey, our observations were pretty routine and then someone spotted a Red-bellied Woodpecker (pictured), which is no exceptional find by itself. It was the action of this bird that caught our attention and even made it a bit difficult to find at first. On a branch in a mid-sized leafless tree, there was a large, almost soccerball sized, gray, papery nest, that had an opening near the bottom and was made by a colony of bald-faced hornets during the summer months. The nest was situated so that the woodpecker could perch on a nearby vertical branch

and gain partial access into the nest's interior through the bottom, either by the opening made by the hornets or by its own pecking actions — we could not tell which. What made the bird hard to see at first was that its entire head was up into the nest with



only the body showing, and at times the black-and-white striping on its back and wings blended perfectly with the gray of the nest. At times the bird was well past its shoulders into the nest, most likely feeding on the eggs, larvae, or even adult hornets or some other insects, etc., that were now calling the nest their home. It was quite an observation watching that bird almost disappear into the hornets' nest. At times it pulled entirely out of the nest, paused motionlessly, only to partially reenter it again.

A short time later, as we walked south down the dirt service road through the wooded area, we came upon a mixed flock of birds feeding not too far from us. There were American Robins, Black-capped Chickadees, White-throated Sparrows, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and a "what-is-that" bird. Before us was a bird in almost constant motion, pausing ever so briefly as it moved about. The bird was fairly close, low moving, and pausing on the branches of shrubs, long hanging vines, and lower tree branches. Each time it briefly paused, we were able to pick out some of its

characteristics. Its motion was warbler-like; it had dull greenish-gray plumage above and a very dull yellowish breast with real-blurry, hard-to-see, stripes. The most obvious characteristic was a flash of yellow from under the bird just before the tail. A check of a field guide found it to be an Orange-crowned Warbler, a bird not frequently seen in our area. It is a bird that many birders would travel a few miles to see.

Winding down our survey, we passed through the woods that is down an embankment from the park road that runs along the end of Hempstead Lake. As we did so, one of our group spotted a low-flying raptor with prey in its talons settling into a tree on the lake side of the road. We scampered up the embankment to the edge of the road and the bird flew to the edge of the woods at the southwest corner of the lake near the road. Slowly and carefully we worked our way towards it. When we got close enough that we had a good view through our binoculars, we stood and watched it feed. It pulled small bits of flesh off the carcass with its sharp hooked bill. It took us a bit of time to determine the prey but then we knew that a Red-tailed Hawk was dining on a squirrel.

The team that was with me in the field that day consisted of Jeannette Miller, Steve Schellenger, Rick Kopitsch, and Joe Landesberg. Together we identified and counted birds for our weekly survey. Together we had three good observations.

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.

CARPOOLING TO MEETINGS?

SSAS's Marilyn Hametz has volunteered to attempt to organize carpools to our monthly meetings; it's the green thing to do, of course, and hopefully will make it possible for us to arrange transportation for those of you who are unable to drive to Freeport at night. For starters, she would like to hear from members who are willing to be full-time drivers or to alternate driving with someone else. We urge you to contact Marilyn at marilynexpl@yahoo.com or 799-7189; please indicate which town you're from.

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.

13TH ANNUAL GBBC

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place during the holiday weekend of **Friday**, **February** 12 through **Monday**, **February** 15. During last year's count, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks, or wildlife refuges.

Each checklist submitted by these "citizen scientists" helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how the birds are doing — and how to protect them. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

On the website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

Data from all previous years' counts are at the website, including by state and by town.

NY's Ten Most Frequently Reported Species in the 2009 GBBC: #1 Black-capped Chickadee (4,030 checklists), #2 Downy Woodpecker, #3 Northern Cardinal, #4 American Goldfinch, #5 Mourning Dove, #6 Blue Jay, #7 Dark-eyed Junco, #8 Tufted Titmouse, #9 American Crow, #10 White-breasted Nuthatch (2,472 checklists).

NY's Ten Most Numerous Species in the 2009 GBBC: #1 Canada Goose (70,176 individuals), #2 American Crow, #3 Pine Siskin (an irruptive year, approximately 100 times the usual numbers), #4 American Goldfinch, #5 European Starling, #6 Black-capped Chickadee, #7 Mourning Dove, #8 Ring-billed Gull, #9 House Sparrow, #10 Redhead (14,362 individuals, mostly in the Finger Lakes region).

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

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendu Murbach

Welcome to our third installment of "Meet Your Board of Directors." This month's answers were provided by Joe Landesberg.

1. How did you get started with South Shore Audubon and when? I started with a simple bird walk. I saw an announcement that SSAS was having a walk at Jones Beach, Zach's Bay. I believe it was November 2004. I met Elliott Kutner and his enthusiasm infected me, so much so that I wanted to learn more, and by going on the walks I have learned a lot. I don't think I have missed more than a handful since then.

- 2. Where did you go to school and what was your major? I did undergraduate work in chemistry at Rutgers in New Brunswick, NJ and Ph.D. work in organic chemistry at Harvard in Cambridge, MA.
- 3. What position do you hold on SSAS's Board? I am a Director and have held that position for 3 years. I also chair the Scholarship Committee for high school awards.
- 4. What exactly is it that you do in your present Board position? See above.
- 5. What else do you do for SSAS? I help Steve Schellenger with the bird walks on Sunday and help Joe Grupp with his surveys and duck counts.
- 6. If you are working, what do you do? I teach organic chemistry at Adelphi University. This is my 45th year teaching there. I am currently chair of the department.
- 7. What is your environmental philosophy? Be part of the environment, enjoy the outdoors, but do no harm. I learned this early when I was a Boy Scout.
- 8. If you are a birder, how did you get started birding? What is the most interesting birding tale you have been involved with? I am only a recent birder. Everything is new for me. I am constantly learning, particularly from Joe G. and Steve S. I guess the most exciting event was seeing the Common Murre at Hempstead Lake State Park last year, a serendipitous event.
- 9. What are your other interests? My wife, Lucy and I do a lot of antiquing. I collect clocks and decoys. In fact, my interest in decoys has reinforced my birding.
- 10. What makes SSAS important in your estimation? Certainly the birding, but also the concern for everything environmental.
- 11. Anything else you think is important to include? I hope to see more of the members out on a bird walk. It's fun!!

22ND ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates for the 2009–2010 Waterfowl Survey are as follows, rain or shine: **Saturdays, January 30, February 20, and March 20**. Volunteers are welcome to participate in the surveys. If you are interested in spending a full or half day visiting up to 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, call Joe Grupp, SSAS's Research Chairperson, at 481-4208.

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

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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.

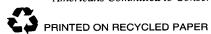
To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper 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					
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				Please	send to: M	r. J. Grupp, Research Chai	rperson
					660) Edgemere Ave., Uniondal	le NY 11553
						or E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@	aol com
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South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Americans Committed to Conservation



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Wendy Murbach, President & Membership	546-6303
Steven Schellenger, Vice Pres. & Field Trips	987-8103
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	536-4808
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	
Scholarships	546-8841
Marilyn Hametz, Publicity	799-7189
Enid Klein, Programs	561-0004
Elliott Kutner, Birding Consultant	486-7667
George Peters, Brookside Preserve Co-Chair	868-5480
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