

autumn cycle includes the movement of young birds hatched in the spring and summer. The number of warblers flying south in the fall, for example, is greater than the number that head north in the spring, though fall warblers will generally be less vibrantly colorful and quieter than the springtime breeding migrants.

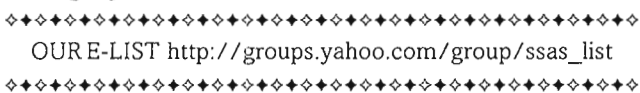
All of this avian movement, which I can observe simply by driving to and from work, plus having received much printed and electronic information about new directions and developments within the National Audubon Society, highlight the importance of our south shore within the Atlantic Flyway. The Atlantic Flyway is one of four major bird migration routes through the United States; the other three are the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways. Our flyway, which is ultimately linked to areas in the Caribbean and South America, includes states along the eastern part of the U.S. from Maine to Florida. Flyways have become a major organizing principle for the National Audubon Society and foci for its conservation activities.

National Audubon has identified forty percent of the Atlantic Flyway's 500+ bird species as "species of conservation need." Thirty-two species have been further characterized as "priority species" by National Audubon. Among these are the Piping Plover, Red Knot, Black Skimmer (South Shore Audubon's longstanding symbol), Semipalmated Sandpiper, and American Oystercatcher (pictured). Our flyway contains only one-tenth the land mass of the United States but over one-third of the nation's population, creating numerous problems impacting habitat and bird conservation.

The South Shore of Long Island contains numerous Important Bird Areas within, of course, the Atlantic Flyway. Among them are Hempstead Lake State Park, West Hempstead Bay/Jones Beach West, and the Great South Bay. To the west is Jamaica Bay, an Important Bird Area found within the limits of New York City. Many of the activities of the South Shore Audubon Society are aimed at protecting the environmental health of these areas, thus protecting our place and role within the larger Atlantic Flyway. Whether we are working to protect open space in Nassau County, engaging and educating the public about birds and bird conservation, or attempting to combat harmful energy policies that contribute to global warming, climate change, and sea level rise, we are involved with the dynamics — and the many cherished bird species — of the Atlantic Flyway.

A full description of National Audubon's new strategic plan and detailed description of flyways can be found at <http://www.audubon.org/documents/audubon-strategic-plan-2012-2015-0>.

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list



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 in February) 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.

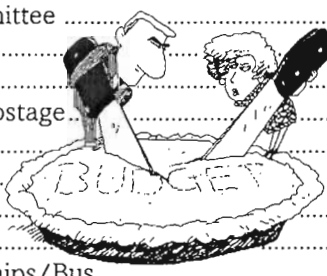
Our new members since last month's issue of the *Skimmer* are:

Babylon	Michael J. Beck
Baldwin	Brenda Simolin
Bellmore	Mark Berman, Sydelle W. Reich, Irvin Youmans
Cedarhurst	Terence Murphy
East Meadow	Harriet Keshinover, Harold Lieberman, Elaine Meranus
East Rockaway	Kathleen Gormley, Steven Kalka
Floral Park	John & Nance Devine
Flushing	Leah Persik
Franklin Square	Kathy M. Dand, Michael Parris
Freeport	Charles Theofan
Garden City	Elizabeth Bailey, Sandra Engelke
Hempstead	Charlotte H. White
Hicksville	Patricia B. Spielman
Island Park	Robert Dolan
Levittown	Jessica Rehman
Long Beach	Anne Papenhausen
Malverne	Mckenzie & M. Young
Massapequa Park	Mr. & Mrs. John Falco, R. Pace
Merrick	Marjorie Alnwick, Gloria Datlow, Sam Jannazzo
Oceanside	Mary Ann Dyer, Ellen P. Giesow, Albert Larsen
Plainview	Delores Perratto
Rockville Centre	Martin Levine
Seaford	Frank Sweeters
Valley Stream	Henry Gerstenblitt
Wantagh	Arlene Rawls
West Hempstead	Miriam L. Pollock



BUDGET 2012-2013

Annual Dinner	\$2,000
Bank Fees	\$150
Brookside Preserve	\$100
College Scholarships	\$1,500
Conferences	\$1,600
Conservation	\$100
Donations	\$400
Education	\$700
Festivals	\$250
Greening of Long Island	\$1,000
High School Scholarships	\$1,000
Insurance	\$1,100
Library	\$1,000
Membership Committee	\$100
Membership Dues	\$50
Miscellaneous	\$200
Office Expenses/Postage	\$2,000
Publicity	\$150
Refreshments	\$300
Skimmer	\$3,750
Speakers	\$1,000
TR Camp Scholarships/Bus	\$6,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$24,450</i>



SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD GUIDES

The national, northeast, and sushi *Seafood Watch* pocket guides published by the Monterey Bay Aquarium that Jim Brown has distributed at our meetings (whenever he has received a supply of the latest versions) can be downloaded at www.seafoodwatch.org, which also has detailed information about the status of many kinds of fish. The pocket guides use three categories: "best choices" (the green list), "good alternatives" (yellow), and "avoid" (red). The following is taken from the northeast guide:

Why do your seafood choices matter? Worldwide, the demand for seafood is increasing. Yet many populations of the large fish we enjoy eating are overfished and in the U.S. we import over 80% of our seafood to meet the demand. Destructive fishing and fish-farming practices only add to the problem. By purchasing fish caught or farmed using environmentally friendly practices, you're supporting healthy, abundant oceans.

You Can Make a Difference. Support ocean-friendly seafood in three easy steps:

- ① Purchase seafood from the green list or, if unavailable, the yellow list. Or look for the Marine Stewardship Council's blue eco-label in stores and restaurants.
- ② When you buy seafood, ask where your seafood comes from and whether it was farmed or wild-caught.
- ③ Tell your friends about Seafood Watch. The more people that ask for ocean-friendly seafood, the better!

VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982

**ACTION ALERT:
CALL GOVERNOR CUOMO TO BAN
HYDROFRACKING!**

Jim Brown

Our campaign to ban fracking in New York State continues and we still need to urge Governor Cuomo to put the safety of our water and the health of our environment, wildlife, and people before the profits of the oil and gas industry! The whole technology is inherently unsafe and dangerous, and should not be permitted in our state.

Call Governor Andrew Cuomo at 866-961-3208 and urge him to Ban Fracking Now! Your call to the toll-free number will be routed to the Governor's office via our coalition partner, Food & Water Watch.



AN AUDUBON CALENDAR IS WAITING FOR YOU

Therese Lucas

SSAS is offering an assortment of Audubon calendars at a special cost of \$9 each. They are available at Sunday bird walks and general meetings. They're going fast, so don't miss your opportunity!

TACKAPAUSHA HOLIDAY PARTY

Marilyn Hameiz

On **Saturday, December 8**, South Shore Audubon will have its annual Holiday Party for Children at the Tackapausha Museum in Seaford. Details will be in the next *Skimmer*.

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

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NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

THIS MONTH'S BROOKLYN WATER WORKS UPDATE

Michael Spelling

On September 28, Nassau County closed the deal to purchase the Brooklyn Water Works property in Freeport and Baldwin from developer Gary Melius, but held back \$150,000 until he completes some remaining obligations, such as the removal of buried bricks. Those obligations don't include removal of the previously mentioned underground storage tank, which was determined via digging to be a harmless water tank.

SSAS is awaiting receipt of a management agreement that would give us responsibility for these 4.2 acres, which are on the southern border of Brookside Preserve and were bought with funds dedicated for the preservation of open space.

FALL CLEANUP AT BROOKSIDE PRESERVE

On **Sunday, November 11**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its fall cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine.



The focus of this cleanup will be the curtailment of invasive plants. 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 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; printed copies are available from SSAS.

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 pruning shears if possible and work gloves.



Steve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Oct. 28 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Nov. 4 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and maybe Lido Preserve afterwards)
- Nov. 11 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
- Nov. 18 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Nov. 25 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Dec. 2 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS

Editor's note: The following was the Fall 2008 Myth Buster, part of an ongoing series from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that's archived at www.dec.ny.gov/public/45772.html.

Q: If I turn the thermostat way down when I'm out, doesn't the furnace use more energy to heat up the house when I return?

A: No — the energy saved by letting the house cool down and remain at a lower temperature is much greater than the energy used to warm up the house.

It is a popular misconception that it is better to keep your home at a constant temperature because the boiler or furnace will "work harder" to bring the inside temperature back up from a ten degree setback.

Not so. Your heating system always runs at the same rate when it is on. The main variable is how long it remains on. Studies have proven that turning the thermostat back 10 degrees for an eight-hour period will save you 10% on your heating bill, on average. If you can't turn your thermostat down 10 degrees, try 5 degrees — there will still be energy savings. The longer your home remains at the lower temperature, the more energy you'll save. Programmable thermostats typically pay for themselves in energy savings in the first winter.

Programmable thermostats are not recommended for homes with heat pumps or electric baseboard systems. Steam boilers and radiant systems may take longer to heat the house back up, but a programmable thermostat will "learn" in a few days when to start heating the house up to reach your desired temperature setting.

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BIRD FOOD PUZZLE ANSWERS

acorn, ant, aphid, barley, beetle, bird, blueberry, bread, brine fly, buckthorn, bug, butterfly, carrion, cedar, centipede, chinch bug, cicada, clam, corn, cricket, crustacean, currant, dragonfly, egg, fig, fish, fly, garbage, grasshopper, honeysuckle, hymenopteron, lacewing, millet, millipede, mite, niger, night shade, oat, pine nut, salamander, sea urchin, sugar water

Remaining letters spell: ROADKILL

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

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER The Beginning of Fall and a Black-and-White Warbler

Joe Grupp

The air told me it was the first day of fall even as the calendar indicated that fall began a few days ago. Everything this early morning was wet, dripping wet, from an overnight rain. The sky was clear and the air crisp, dry, and autumn chilly. Shadows from the trees were crisp, dark, and distinct. Where sunlight fell, everything was bright and colorful. Trees were still mostly green; a few were turning red but the landscape was mostly green, dappled with dots of yellow where individual leaves were turning color. Millions of water droplets clinging to the leaves shone as tiny jewels as they caught the light of the sun. Everything about that morning reminded me not only that the season was changing, but that it was also a good day to be out looking for birds.

My attention was pulled from my appreciation of fall as I walked when I detected some movement among a tangle of the stems and leaves of a vine or vines draped over a fairly tall sapling, hiding most of its trunk and parts of its branches. Focusing on the area where I detected the movement, first with naked eye and then through my binoculars, I was able to gradually see parts of a bird through the thick cover of leaves that hid it. It was foraging on the trunk and branches of the sapling that the vine was growing on. Before long, even as I was yet to see the entire bird, it was evident that it was a Black-and-white Warbler, a common spring and fall migrant in our area.

While I was observing the bits and pieces of the Black-and-white Warbler (pictured), a second bird flew in low and onto the trunk of a neighboring tree that was out in the open and had no vines growing on it. Immediately after landing it began moving upward, clinging to the tree's bark and foraging for insects among the bark's creases and crevasses. I instantly recognized it as a Brown Creeper. The foraging behavior of the Black-and-white Warbler that I had sighted is similar to that of the Brown Creeper in that they both move along the bark of trees, searching for insects, etc. It is one of the reasons that in the distant past the Black-and-white Warbler was known as the Black-and-white Creeper. The major difference in the two birds' foraging behavior is that the Brown Creeper forages the bark while working its way up the tree, while the Black-and-white Warbler forages the bark as it moves in all directions: up, down, laterally, and along branches.

A flurry of motion behind the vines directed my attention again to the Black-and-white Warbler. It was scurrying out from behind the vines and, making a very short flight, it landed on the very end of a sunlit branch; there it perched, motionless, facing the sun. The bright sun lit it to perfection as the bird perched there and then began



preening. Every detail of the bird's contrasting black-and-white plumage was highlighted by the sun. After a short time preening, it raised its beak upward and was motionless for two or three minutes, allowing the direct rays of the sun to strike under its bill, on its throat, and on its breast. My guess is that on that chilly morning it was allowing the sun's rays to warm it up.

After a few minutes, the bird was up and off the branch like a shot, heading in a southerly direction. I have no idea if the bird was continuing its migration or was just going to find another tree to forage on. The breeding range of the species is roughly from southern Canada to our southern states and it only infrequently breeds along east coastal areas. Its winter range extends from the southernmost areas of our Gulf states down through Central America to the northwesternmost parts of South America, including, as well, some of the islands of the Caribbean. That small bird, which weighs only about eleven ounces and whose life touched mine for those very few minutes, most certainly had a long and perilous journey ahead of it. It will take at most a very few weeks for it to fly to the northernmost part of its wintering grounds or beyond. The thought occurred to me as I watched it fly away that I most certainly could not walk the same distance that the bird would fly in so short a period of time and most likely would not be able to walk that distance at all. The bird's two tiny wings would carry it further and faster than I could go under my own power. Incredible!



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with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

ASSATEAGUE SEASHORE — CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Nov. 1–4). A weekend of great wildlife viewing along the Delmarva Peninsula. Visit Cypress Swamp and Bombay Hook Refuge on the way home. Cost: \$395/person includes 3 nights lodging, guided hikes, Safari Bus Tour of refuge backwater area, seafood dinner on Saturday night (all the oysters you can eat), plus a visit to a cypress swamp and Bombay Hook Refuge. Joint trip with New York City Audubon. Car pooling.

NATURAL HISTORY OF LONG ISLAND CONFERENCE (Fri., Nov. 16, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.). A full day of speakers on various natural history topics and concerns to be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory plus many field trips held on Sat., Nov. 17. Contact Don for info.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., Dec. 1, 5–9 P.M.). Nature walk at refuge at 3 P.M. Join us for our 22nd Annual Holiday Party at VFW Hall in scenic Broad Channel. Cost: \$55 includes buffet dinner, beer, wine & cheese, drinks, dessert, great door prizes, a Silent Auction, a fun Ugly Auction, and performances by the Don Diego Flamenco Dance Company plus Gina, an exotic dancer. Contact Don for reservations.

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



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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 your 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 (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).



Donations to SSAS are always welcome! \$_____

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

NAME: _____

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