

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2015

#### **NEXT MEETING**

John Gaglione

DATE:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

TIME:

7:30 P.M.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER:

Dr. Russell L. Burke

TOPIC:

The Herps of Long Island

Long Island has an unusual selection of reptiles and amphibians, quite unlike both nearby New Jersey and Connecticut. For our next monthly meeting, Russ Burke will return to SSAS for an overview of the amphibians and reptiles of Long Island and why this is a special place for many interesting animals, including such species as diamondback terrapins, eastern box turtles, hognose snakes, Italian wall lizards, and tiger salamanders.

Dr. Burke earned his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in the Department of Biology, and then worked as a post-doc in Terry Root's ornithology lab at UM's School of Natural Resources and the Environment. He joined Hofstra as an assistant professor in 1996 and was promoted to professor in 2010. He typically teaches courses in ecology, evolution, behavior, conservation biology, urban habitats, and the ecology of wildlife diseases.

He primarily studies the ecology, evolution, and conservation biology of turtles and lizards, and some mammals. Most of the species are either introduced or rare; thus population control (either up or down) is important. A lot of his fieldwork takes place in the urban and suburban habitats of New York City and Long Island. Currently his major research projects involve diamondback terrapins at Jamaica Bay, wood turtles in northern New Jersey, wall lizards on Long Island, and the interplay between Lyme disease, ticks, and their hosts at a variety of sites in the eastern U.S. Join us!

**SSAS Constitution**. See last month's *Skimmer* (which will be posted online in March) for the two amendments that our members will be voting on during the meeting.

No Pre-Meeting Book Discussion in March. Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding ID Challenges by Bill Thompson III, which was reviewed by R. U. Abyrdar II in the last Skimmer, will be discussed at our April meeting.

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.

#### <del>♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦</del> PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ecosystems of Long Island

Belty Borowsky

I suspect that most people don't think of today's Long Island as a rich natural environment. After all, we have a large and increasing population, and whatever open spaces remain are very much threatened by the desire to develop them. Our natural areas are steadily being paved over for even more malls and even more housing. But modern Long Island still has an extraordinarily diverse environment and offers many opportunities to enjoy

The interesting part of all this is that so much is packed into a relatively small area. The Island is about 120 miles long, from the westernmost border of Brooklyn to the Montauk Light House; and it's about 25 miles wide, at its widest point. If we just confine the discussion to Nassau County, the southernmost part being the catchment area of the South Shore Audubon Society, then it's only about 18 by 22 miles. Basically, if there's no traffic, and you start out at about the center of Nassau County (in Garden City, say), it will take you no longer than 30 minutes to reach almost any part of the County.

But within those boundaries is an astonishing number of very distinct ecosystems — some unique. The reason this is so wonderful is that each ecosystem has a distinct assemblage of animals and plants, so we have the opportunity to see many different species right nearby.

How is it possible to have so many ecosystems within such a small geographic area? Well, the most important determinant of what ecosystems are here is overall climate. Long Island is in the temperate zone (the northern temperate zone is approximately between 40 and 60 degrees latitude). This is a relatively moderate climate, with, as you know, a growing season of about eight months. And even though it can get pretty cold, a great number of species survive here all year round.

Now consider our geology. Most of Long Island's surface was formed from materials brought here by the last two glaciers. Since the glaciers came about halfway down through the Island, then melted, finer particles were deposited towards the south as the meltwater flowed into the ocean, forming the white sands of the south shore; and larger, heavier particles were left in place, forming the richer soil in the north. So today there are temperate forests and pebbly beaches in the north (such as in Welwyn Preserve, in Glen Cove), and dunes and sandy shores in the south (such as at Jones Beach).

In addition, of course, we are surrounded by seawater. But the animals and plants that live in full-strength seawater (such as at the southern edge of our barrier beaches) are really different from those that live in reduced-salinity seawater (such as in the estuarine salt marshes that surround the Island). In addition to all that, the intertidal zones of full-strength seawater and reduced-salinity seawater areas are themselves distinct ecosystems. Further, we have many freshwater streams and even a few lakes. We've got grasslands and acidic bogs.

But that's not all. Our geographic location adds even more diversity for us. Long Island is directly under the migration paths of many birds (the Atlantic Flyway), so

that not only can we enjoy the many birds that are permanent residents and the many birds that spend just one season here, but we can also enjoy the

here, but we can also enjoy the ones that are just passing through (so:

hawks in the fall, warblers in the spring, etc., etc.).

To quantify this diversity: In the 2013 annual Christmas Bird Count, 131 species were observed in our area (southern Nassau County) and 81 in Rockland County, which is

really not far from us but inland.

Late winter is one of the best times of the year. Our gorgeous winter ducks are still here, and many are actively courting. And things are just coming alive: the red maples are in flower; the male Northern Cardinals are singing. Spring is definitely on its way.

So: Come and spend some time with us in the outdoors. Join us on our weekly bird walks and take advantage of how much one can see not more than 30 minutes away from home.

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 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: Bellmore ...... Patricia Cronin, Eloisa Kondogianis Bethpage ...... Clifford Franklin, Jr.; B. Wiegleb East Meadow ...... Joan Levy Farmingdale ...... Lorraine Kaufmann, Mingzhen Ma Floral Park ...... The O'Reily Family Freeport ...... Rita Tancredi Garden City ...... John P. Coll, Franklin & Ann Dickinson Glen Oaks...... Natasha Conklin Lawrence ...... Patricia Caponi Lido Beach ..... Florence Steckel Long Beach ...... Kristin Esquirol, Kate Sherwood Lynbrook ...... Steve & Kim Hastings, Susan Schwam, Thomas E. Wingenfeld Massapequa Park ..... Thomas J. Carlough, Diane Palmer Cornell, Jeff Finkel. William J. Herbert Merrick ...... Stanley Cohen, S. S. Fisher Oceanside ...... Michele Schuman Valley Stream...... Arlene Felloni Wantagh ...... Maddy Kaiser, Janet Wexler NAT'L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

# THOUGHTS, NEWS, AND OPINION FROM YOUR CONSERVATION CHAIR SSAS and NYC Audubon Awarded Energy Siting Grant

Jim Brown

I am happy to announce that our chapter, in collaboration with New York City Audubon, has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 to study the possible impacts on birds of a proposed Long Island–New York City Offshore Wind Project. The grant is made possible by the Moore Charitable Foundation and National Audubon.

The large-scale wind project to be analyzed by the two sister Audubon chapters is currently being planned for an area in the New York Bight, approximately 14 nautical miles due south of Nassau County. The project is proposed for 350 megawatts (MW) of generation with the ability to expand to 700 MW, giving it the potential to be the largest offshore wind project in the country. Sponsors of the wind farm estimate that a 350 MW wind facility operating at 40% capacity would provide enough energy for about 112,000 homes.

Global warming and the chaotic climate changes it has produced have reached critical levels. It is imperative that we combat, rapidly, these phenomena through energy conservation and the development of alternative, clean energy solutions. Numerous bird species are being adversely affected by global warming. Climate change is driving many avian species to the brink of extinction according to Audubon scientists. Wind power, an important form of renewable energy, properly sited, will hopefully play an important role in our efforts to conserve bird species throughout the Atlantic Flyway and worldwide. The continental shelf of the U.S. Atlantic Coast has been termed "the Saudi Arabia of wind power," and it is hoped that our wind resources will be developed to move us away from fossil fuels to combat global warming, which threatens the totality of earth's species, including the birds so precious to us all.

The goals of the research grant are to study all relevant, available data related to bird species found within the New York Bight that might be affected by the construction of the planned Long Island–New York City Offshore Wind Project and to identify any possible data gaps that relate to bird species. If such data gaps are found, we will offer ideas on possible ways to gather the data needed to fill the gaps. We hope, through this grant, to initiate a process very similar to the one pursued by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in its study of the Cape Wind Energy Project of Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound. Following its study of that wind farm, Mass Audubon decided to support that project, convinced that no significant danger to bird species was posed by it.

Whether we are able to support the ultimate construction of the wind farm that we — South Shore Audubon and New York City Audubon — will be studying is currently an

open question. The grant will begin a process by which we can arrive at a reasoned decision through solid scientific study. Global warming is a reality and is a severe threat to birds. Through our analysis, we hope to see if the proposed wind farm off our shores will prove to be positive not only in fighting global warming generally, but whether or not the siting of the wind turbines is proper to maximize the key goal of bird conservation.

Editor's note: According to an e-mail we received from Audubon New York's Manager of Conservation Engagement, Laura McCarthy, "The National Audubon policy office has recently announced grants for Audubon chapters working on energy siting work. Those of you whose

in on siting projects related to pipelines, fracking, solar wind, etc. — these might be great opportunities for you. The primary desired outcome from these projects is to modify energy siting projects to minimize disturbance to habitats and hazards to birds and other wild-

chapters are particularly interested in weighing

life. The grant awards range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and can allow for funding to pay for consultants or attorneys to help you with energy siting projects you're concerned about."

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Explore the coast with the

### AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT JAMAICA BAY (Sat., March 28, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at refuge visitor center for a brief photo presentation followed by a 2-hour hike to the East & West Ponds to look for great egrets, osprey, ibis, laughing gulls, phoebes and other early spring arrivals. Contact Don (leader) to reserve. With NYC Audubon. Free. EARTH DAY SHORELINE CLEANUP (Sun., April 26, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.). Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge center and help clean the refuge for migrating shorebirds and horseshoe crabs. Bring gloves and wear boots.

JAMAICA BAY ECOLOGY CRUISE (Sat., May 30, 3 P.M. to

JAMAICA BAY ECOLOGY CRUISE (Sat., May 30, 3 P.M. to 6 P.M.). Learn about the history, management, ecology, and wildlife of the bay aboard the 100' boat "Golden Sunshine" leaving from Pier 2, Sheepshead Bay. See nesting egrets, herons, ibis and many other species. Cost: \$55 includes narrated tour of backwater marshes, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks. To reserve, contact Don.

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 5–7). Hike the "Walking Dunes," Lighthouse Beach, Montauk Bluffs, and Shadmoor State Park. Cost: \$395/person includes 2 nights lodging (double occ.) at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and star watch.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 474-0896, donriepe@gmail.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.littoralsociety.org.

#### NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Black Turnstones Plow Ahead

Joe Grupp

We were up early and on a San Diego, California beach at sunrise, binoculars in hand, to see what we could find. The Pacific Ocean spread out before us, its waters broken by a steep-sided island a fair distance away. We walked first toward Point Loma, a tall headland, its steep cliffs defining it, lying across the entrance to San Diego Bay; then, turning around, walked toward the tall buildings of the city of San Diego. The scenery was as picturesque as it gets and more so, as the early sun's rays penetrated a sea mist.

The sands of the beach are similar to but not exactly the same as that of Jones Beach. They are firmer and not quite as white. Near the shoreline were what looked at first to be small mounds of sand, but were really small mounds of seaweed left by the last high tide and covered with wind-blown sand. We had little interest in them until a small sandpiper-type bird flew in, landed close to one, scampered over to it, and tore the mound apart, feeding on whatever it found there. Getting our glasses on the bird, we found it to be a Black Turnstone, a relative of the Ruddy Turnstone that we frequently see at home during migration.

The Black Turnstone is a west coast bird that is fairly easy to identify with its dark brown/dull black overall plumage and its white belly in winter. It breeds in a concentrated area near the northwestern Alaskan coast. Having an estimated population of 95,000 birds and a concentrated breeding area, it is listed on the U.S. WatchList of Birds of Conservation Concern.

As we walked, we saw a second bird run toward and attack another pile of sand-covered seaweed. Then, scanning the near beach looking for more, we found a total of six individual birds all exhibiting the same behavior. Before long, the behavior itself became the concentration of our observations.

Each time a bird ran to a mound, it would use its beak to flip some of the sand and seaweed aside, digging deeper and deeper into the pile as it did so. Then we were amazed as we watched the bird bow its head into the loosened portion of the pile and energetically push into the pile, literally plowing it open with its head, much as a farmer plows open a field. Once the seaweed was exposed, the bird picked among it with its bill, apparently finding small bits of food. At first I thought the plowing to be an isolated incident, but we observed it over and over again until we were no longer fascinated by it.

We saw a few other species that morning: Marbled Godwits with their long slightly upturned bills; a Long-billed Curlew or two with their exceptionally long downcurved bills (pictured); a flock of Black-bellied Plovers resting, some on one leg, unless

we got too close to them, which we tried to avoid. A few Sanderlings were chasing the waves, just as they do here at home. A number of Western Gulls, black wings and back contrasting with their white head and underparts, flew over us, going out over the sea or coming in from it while one or two Ring-billed Gulls were doing the same. The sea itself offered up a California Brown Pelican or two and a line of cormorants, whose species I could not determine, flying just above the water.

Our walk lasted about an hour and was more than satisfying. The beach was nice, the scenery exceptional, and the birds, while not entirely new to us, were in different settings, groupings, and numbers. Most of all I will remember it for a long time because of the action of the Black Turnstones as they used their heads to plow through the sand-covered seaweed piles looking for breakfast, which was a first observation for me, even if it is a normal part of their behavior as I suspect it is.

## PLUM ISLAND UPDATE

Editor's note: SSAS joined the Preserve Plum Island Coalition (www.preserveplumisland.org) when it was formed five years ago. Located less than a mile from the tip of Long Island's North Fork, the 843-acre Plum Island includes the well-known Animal Disease Center but is approximately 90% undeveloped. Its wildlife habitat, which the Coalition wants to see preserved by the federal government (e.g., as a National Wildlife Refuge), has been in danger of being sold to developers since 2008, when Congress approved plans to build a \$1 billion National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas, with a tiny fraction of the cost required to come from selling Plum Island to the highest bidder.

Last July, Democratic and Republican members of the Congressional delegations from Connecticut and Long Island held a press conference calling for the repeal of the requirement that Plum Island be sold. Six months later, the Preserve Plum Island Coalition issued the following statement which didn't fit in last month's Skimmer: "Save the Sound, one of our coalition members, and Soundkeeper Inc. will be submitting a 60-day notice letter to the General Services Administration [GSA] and Department of Homeland Security [DHS] under the Endangered Species Act today [January 5]. The letter outlines that GSA/DHS failure to properly consult with USFWS [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] and NMFS [National Marine Fisheries Service] led to a faulty EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] that did not consider options that would conserve land to ensure protection of wildlife and habitat. The goal of this letter is threefold: 1) to get GSA/ DHS to seriously consider conservation sale options before it is too late; 2) to ensure the EIS will be modified to reflect these conservation options; and 3) to give our Congressionals a stick to call for a change in the original authorizing sale language."

#### MORTON NWR VISIT

On **Saturday, March 14**, SSAS's Joanne Del Prete will provide unsalted sunflower seeds (for those who don't have their own supply for backyard bird feeding) and lead us at 10:30 A.M. from the parking lot of the Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge.

As we walk slowly along the 1.2-mile nature trail, we will hold a few sunflower seeds out in our palms and pause for Black-capped Chickadees and other species to land on our fingers and grab the seeds, as they've been doing since the days when the Mortons owned the property. Tufted Titmice, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, nuthatches (White-breasted Nuthatch is pictured), and woodpeckers are among the

birds that will approach people at Morton; when we last visited in 2012, a Wild Turkey followed us.

Bring binoculars for observing the wildlife and for the beautiful views where the trail ends at the beach. Established in 1954, the 187-acre Refuge boasts exceptionally diverse habitats, including upland forest, fields, ponds, salt marsh, beach, and lagoon. Much of the Refuge is on a peninsula surrounded by Noyack and Little Peconic Bays.

Directions: The Refuge's address is 2595 Noyac(k) Rd., Sag Harbor, NY 11963; phone number 631-286-0485 (for the headquarters at Wertheim NWR). There is a small entrance fee (\$4 per car). Take Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Southampton and turn left onto North Sea Road (County Road 38) toward North Sea for 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Noyac(k) Road and continue for 5 miles. The Refuge's entrance is on the left.

After our visit, everyone's invited to an optional lunch in downtown Sag Harbor. This event will be canceled in the event of rain, snow, or temperatures below 25°F. Call Joanne at 433-0739 to register in case of a cancellation or for additional info; you can reach her by cell phone on March 14 only (476-3761).

# SSAS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks to the much-appreciated support of longtime member Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society is again offering the \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarship this spring to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who are continuing their studies toward a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. Our annual college scholarship program began in 1994 and was named in memory of Jerry two years later. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or send e-mail to betsy.gulotta@ncc.edu. Applications are due by April 30.



Joe Landesbero

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Call Joe at 467-9498 in case of questionable conditions or for other info. Directions and lists of what we've seen are at ssaudubon.org.

Feb. 22	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
Mar. 1	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
Mar. 8	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
Mar. 15	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 22	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 29	Alley Pond Park (76th Ave. parking lot)
Apr. 5	Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)
Apr. 12	Mill Pond Park (see above)
Apr. 19	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
Apr. 26	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
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	RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
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VOLU	UNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982
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#### **SSAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Michael Sperling

In accordance with our bylaws, any member in good standing may suggest candidates for officers and directors for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1, who will be elected during our meeting in May. This is my second year as Nominating Committee chairperson; if you have suggestions (including yourself), please contact me at mssperling@optonline.net or 221-3921 (evenings).

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

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# 27TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates for our five 2014–2015 Waterfowl Surveys, rain or shine, are/were **Saturdays**, **February 21** and **March 21**. Volunteers are welcome to participate. 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 at 481-4208.

#### SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

*Editor's note:* The following comes from a February 4 press release and information, including the species lists, available at www.dec.nv.gov.

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) completed in 2005 is New York's state wildlife action plan. The plan serves as the state's guiding document for managing wildlife species in greatest need of conservation and actions needed to conserve them in the future. New York's CWCS was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program in 2006, to secure federal funding support for the species and habitat restoration actions outlined in the plan. New York's wildlife action plan is currently being revised by Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) biologists and conservation partners. The revised plan will be available in fall 2015.

The public comment period for the draft Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list is extended for an additional 30 days until March 9.

DEC collaborated with numerous species experts and conservation partners to develop revisions to the Species of Greatest Conservation Need list, as part of an update to the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP identifies species that need conservation action to maintain their abundance and distribution in New York, threats to these species, and management actions that will be undertaken in the next ten years to conserve these designated species and their habitats.

The draft final list contains 372 SGCN, half of which are considered high priority for conservation action in the near term. SGCN are species that are declining or are at risk due to identified threats, such as loss of habitat, and conservation actions are appropriate to stabilize their populations in New York. An additional 111 species were categorized as Species of Potential Conservation Need (SPCN). SPCN are species that have poorly known population status and trends in New York and will need further research or surveys to determine their conservation status.

Birds on the Proposed High Priority SGCN List: American Black Duck, Barn Owl, Bay-breasted Warbler, Bicknell's Thrush, Black Rail, Black Skimmer, Black Tern, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Canada Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Cattle Egret, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Meadowlark, Golden-winged Warbler (pictured), Grasshopper Sparrow, Gray Jay, Henslow's

Sparrow, Horned Lark, Kentucky Warbler, King Rail, Little Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bobwhite, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Piping Plover, Prothonotary Warbler, Red Knot, Redheaded Woodpecker, Roseate Tern,

Rusty Blackbird, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Short-eared Owl, Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow, Whimbrel, Whip-poor-will, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The status of these species is known and conservation action is urgent in the next ten years. These species are declining and must receive timely management intervention or they are likely to reach critical population levels in New York.

Birds on the Proposed SGCN List: American Bittern, American Kestrel, American Oystercatcher, American Woodcock, Bald Eagle, Black Scoter, Black-bellied Plover, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Blackthroated Blue Warbler, Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Cerulean Warbler, Common Eider, Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, Common Tern, Cory's Shearwater, Forster's Tern, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Great Egret, Greater Scaup, Greater Yellowlegs, Gull-billed Tern, Harlequin Duck, Horned Grebe, Laughing Gull, Least Bittern, Least Tern, Lesser Scaup, Little Blue Heron, Long-eared Owl, Longtailed Duck, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Northern Pintail, Peregrine Falcon, Pied-billed Grebe, Prairie Warbler, Purple Sandpiper, Razorbill, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruddy Duck, Ruddy Turnstone, Ruffed Grouse, Scarlet Tanager, Snowy Egret, Surf Scoter, Tricolored Heron, White-winged Scoter, Willet, Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, and Yellowcrowned Night-Heron. The status of these species is known and conservation action is essential. These species are expected to experience significant declines over the next ten years and will need management intervention to secure their populations.

Birds on the Proposed SPCN List: American Golden-Plover, Dickcissel, Great Shearwater, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, Sanderling, Tennessee Warbler, and Thayer's Gull. The trends in abundance and distribution of these species are poorly known, but there is an identified threat to the species, or the species has a high level of intrinsic vulnerability. Further research and surveys are needed to determine their actual population status. Although not classified as SGCN, actions for their conservation will be identified and they will be included in the SWAP.

Birds Removed from SGCN List: Brant, Cooper's Hawk, Dunlin, Osprey, Red-throated Loon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Willow Flycatcher. These species have been determined to be stable and secure and do not require management intervention over the next ten years to maintain their populations within New York. These include species that were evaluated because they were designated as SGCN in the CWCS, or were nominated for evaluation as SGCN but were determined to be secure.

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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! **Town of Hempstead residents who feed birds should contact the Town about its new ordinance.** 

Dates: Fr	rom	to					
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
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				Please	send to: Mi	r. J. Grupp, Research Chairpers DEdgemere Ave., Uniondale NY	on 7 11553
						or	
						E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.c	:om
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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



DATED MATERIAL



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Emma Carpenter, Director (6/16)6	
Richard Kopsco, Director (6/16) & Brookside	
Preserve	325-6792
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Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor 2	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 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.

<b>X</b> ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ Donations to SSAS are always welcome! \$					
'es, I'd like to join: □ SSAS only □ National Audubon too					
JAME:					
ADDRESS:					
(Zip+4					
PHONE NO.:					
E-MAIL:					
Chapter Code C5ZR150Z (South Shore Audubon Society)					
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