

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.

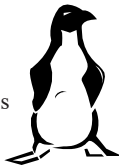
You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Memorial Library from 7:30–9:30 P.M., on the second Tuesday of the month, to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment’s health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Bellmore..... Steven & Clare Cassara, Michael Hogan
- Elmont..... Fritz Saint Louis
- Floral Park..... Michael Ryan
- Hewlett Diane Kubis
- Levittown Joseph Cazzallino
- Malverne Thomas A. & Ann V. Rozakis
- Oceanside Linda Harris
- Point Lookout..... Noreen Fitzpatrick
- Rockville Centre Laurie Kaplan, James Whitehead
- Seaford Sherrie Papayanopoulos
- Valley Stream Joy Chacon
- Wantagh Janis Reinhart
- Woodmere Barry Jacobs



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.*

DISCOUNTED AUDUBON CALENDARS FROM SSAS

At our walks and meetings, we’re selling Audubon calendars at a bargain price of \$10 apiece (list price \$14.99). The 12-inch by 28-inch (when opened) “Songbirds & Other Backyard Birds” Picture-a-Day Wall Calendar features a photograph and related text at the top, plus smaller images throughout the unusually tall grid. Sample pages are at <http://www.pageaday.com/store/audubon>.

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT UNDER ATTACK

Editor’s note: The following is taken from an e-mailed Audubon Alert; sign up for them now at **www.audubon.org/takeaction**, especially if your member of Congress has a habit of voting against environmental protection (see <http://scorecard.lcv.org>).

On November 8, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed an energy bill with an amendment that would gut our nation’s strongest bird conservation law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Bird-Killer Amendment, introduced by Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), would give oil and gas companies and other industries a free pass to kill birds with impunity. If Cheney’s amendment passes, industries would no longer be held accountable for bird deaths, such as birds killed in oil spills. In other words, if this amendment had existed in 2010, BP would not have been held liable for killing more than one million birds during the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

 NAT’L AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (844) 428-3826

BIRD WALKS
 Joe Landesberg

All walks start at **9 A.M.**; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Call me at 467-9498 in case of questionable conditions or for other info. Check www.facebook.com/SSAudubon (you don’t need to have a Facebook account) for cancellations, changes, and lists from recent walks. Directions and lists of what we’ve seen over the years are at ssaudubon.org.

- Nov. 26 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner (and Lido Preserve afterwards; Jan. 28 too)
- Dec. 3 Alley Pond Park (76th Ave. parking lot)
- Dec. 10 Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
- Dec. 17 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Dec. 24 & 31 *Happy Holidays! — No Walks*
- Jan. 7 Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)
- Jan. 14 Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north side of Merrick Rd.)
- Jan. 21 Pelham Bay Park*
- Jan. 28 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner

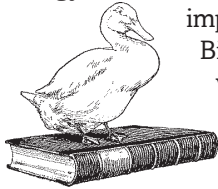
*For Pelham Bay Park (where we hope to see owls): Wear hiking shoes — it’s a hilly forest walk to the bay. Take Throgs Neck Bridge to I-695 north to I-95 north. Take I-95 to exit #9, Hutchinson River Parkway north. Take first exit #5, Orchard Beach Rd., go past traffic circle, and continue on Orchard Beach Rd. to end. Turn left on Park Dr. Go past another traffic circle and enter parking lot through toll gates (free); meet at far left corner of parking lot (northeast corner). See www.mappery.com/Pelham-Bay-Park-NYC-Map or Google’s map of “Orchard Beach Parking Lot” for reference.

BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

R. U. Abyrdar II with Sy Schiff

This month we will be reviewing a thrilling adventure story! The author will be attempting a global BIG YEAR! Mr. Strycker eventually sees and hears over 6,000 bird species in over 40 countries. This book is about the “places, people, cultures, adventures, and misadventures along the way.” Some of these stories will be as interesting as the birds Noah sees.

The book is *Birding Without Borders* by Noah Strycker. He is an expert birder, and he had to be young and full of energy in order to accomplish all he set out to do! More importantly, he is a very talented writer!



Birds face extreme challenges worldwide and in spite of this he sees hope because more people than ever are working to protect these birds! His goal was simple: “in the next 12 months I hope to see 5,000 species of birds!”

So, let’s begin to see if he can accomplish this “very exhausting and exciting” goal! (Now Sy’s contribution.) “Many serious birders do a Big Day, some do a State Big Year, and a very few do a North American Big Year. But only a few have ever tried a WORLD Big Year. This book chronicles such a feat. The planning and logistics for such an endeavor are covered, and how this plays out in fact make this an interesting read! Mr. Strycker takes us to untrodden and exotic locations where rare and unusual birds are ticked off. So, this is a birding adventure as well as a travelogue.

The idea was not to just see a ton of birds, but to see 5,000 of the world’s 10,365 birds in a single year and break the previous high total of 3,000+ birds. There are two “official” world birding lists, Clement’s (10,365) and International Ornithological Congress (10,612). The former was chosen as it is the one used by eBird, a primary source of data for his adventure, and most North American birders.

Mr. Strycker chose to enlist the best local birders he could find in each location he visited, so as to have the best available help. He enlisted local help rather than use tour leaders who may not have been as familiar with the local treasures. The people, how they were recruited, and the help they provided are enumerated with people’s names and location descriptions.

Seeing 6,042 birds — the number he saw — is a big undertaking and discussing each one as you go along is just boring. He does not do this! A smattering of strange bird names show up in the text, but it all flows from the excellent narrative. A lot of it is because the birds are endemic, rare, or incredibly rare. An appendix lists all the birds in the order ticked off and the country they were seen in. And there are mishaps, accidents, problems and weather. All are described and solved. The 5,000 goal is always in view and how it was approached makes this book read

like a mystery story. You know he gets there and beyond, but how the adventure unfolds makes it both interesting and exciting!

I’m not quite sure who the audience is for this book. I doubt the usual feeder birder would be interested. Birders who travel might like it. However, so much territory is covered (the better part of the world) that very little space is allotted to any one locality. If you like travel, adventure, and especially the excitement of birding, you’ll like (as in enjoy) this book. It has it all!”

R.U.’s contribution: Sy recently celebrated his 90th birthday!! And he is still going strong!!! Read it and ENJOY!!!

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.

Phone: (516) 931-1445
Fax: (516) 931-1467
E-Mail: lenny@konskerandcompany.com

LEONARD G. KONSKER
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Konsker and Company, LTD
990 Westbury Rd., Suite 103
Westbury, New York 11590

DISPLAY CASE AT ROCKVILLE CENTRE LIBRARY

Thanks to the efforts of SSAS member Alene Scoblete, information about our chapter has been occupying one of the Rockville Centre Public Library’s tall display cases throughout the month of November. Since we didn’t have anything readily available for such a display, we are grateful to Alene not only for inviting us to have a presence at the library, but for doing nearly all of the work and creating some of the things that are in the display.

If your own library has similar space available, please e-mail mssperling@optonline.net.



Syosset Plaza
625 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791 (516) 226-1780

www.wbu.com/syosset
FB: Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset NY

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

BIRDSEED • FEEDERS • BIRDBATHS • OPTICS • GIFTS
GREETING CARDS • WALL ART • TILLEY HATS
SILVER FOREST EARRINGS • GARDEN ACCENTS

