



# The Sandpiper

## Great South Bay Audubon Society

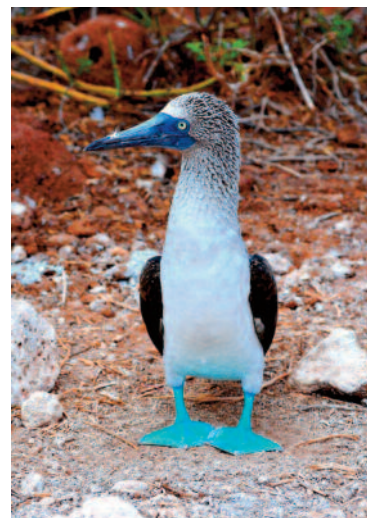
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

### Impacts from a Strong El Nino on Fragile Ecosystems

by Maria Brown, MS, PWS, Conservation Chair

As I have been preparing to head off to the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon, I have been faced with preparing for the worst drought conditions on record for that region! Climate change and the strongest El Nino in a decade have persistently impacted this region since 2012, when the worst flooding on record occurred. The long-lasting, warmer than average water temperature in the tropical Pacific, drives the severe drought (currently on-going) and had it's preview to the season with an exceptionally wet season in April, 2015, with the second worst flooding season recorded for that region.

The El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) occurs in two phases. In an El Nino year, a high pressure system develops across the western Pacific while a low pressure develops in the east. The easterly trade winds weaken and waters are pushed from the west to the east. The resulting pressure difference is known as the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI). During El Nino, the warm waters from the western tropical Pacific migrate eastward as the trade winds weaken (Rose, 1998). At the present time, the Amazon River in Iquitos is 2.5 meters below normal water level, and in the Tmashiyacu-Tahuayo Reserve it is nearly 4.5 meters below normal. This may appear to be a relief for them since the past 10 years have been higher than normal, but the biologists in the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo region are worried that they may not have a flood season at all. These impacts may prove significant with widespread



*The Blue-footed Booby is just one of the many animal species affected by climate change.*

ecological impacts because fish and other aquatic organisms will not be able to get into the flooded forest to feed, and therefore cannot breed. This will reduce ecological functions throughout the Amazon food webs and will impact the local indigenous people, the Riverinos, who rely on these fish for food. The farms of the native people will also suffer as the floods fertilize the soil annually with marine fossil sediments (calcium, phosphorus and magnesium) from the Andes (Amazonia Expeditions, 2016).

In other parts of the world, this strong El Nino has been impacting

*continued on bottom of page 6*

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS and MONTHLY PROGRAMS

All GSBAS Activities are FREE  
and open to the public.

Join us and bring a friend.

General Membership Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, except May, (which is our Annual Dinner), July & August.

Pre-program refreshments begin at 7:00.

Program begins at 7:30 pm.

Held at Connetquot River State Park Preserve. See page 3 for directions. Come early to chat with our members and share your birding adventures with us!

**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

#### **Birds do the Most Amazing Things!**

Birds are everyday miracles. Sue Krause, naturalist and educator, will explore some fascinating facts and stories about our avian friends, including penguins, eagles, kiwis, as well as many beautiful birds found right here on Long Island. Come, and you will be both entertained and amazed!

**Thursday, April 16, 2016**

To be announced

Check website for updates: GSBAS.org

## *GSBAS Annual Dinner*

Mark your calendar now for our annual May dinner/fundraiser.

**Monday, May 2th 2016 at Captain Bill's Bayview House**

Dinner will include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, salad, entrée, dessert, soda, coffee and tea. There will be a cash bar.

Our speaker this year is Dr. Douglas Futuyma, distinguished professor of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University. An avid naturalist, Doug has authored several text books and his research concerns speciation and the evolution of interactions between species, especially herbivorous insects and their host plants. Doug's talk for our dinner is titled "A World of Birds; A Biologist's View." We are very much looking forward to this presentation.

Steve D'Amato is hard at work creating his next masterpiece: this year's painting depicts an Eastern Meadowlark singing in a field of greens. It is always an exciting prospect to have the opportunity to win one of Steve's paintings. We are working on some other surprises as well. You'll have to just come and see what they are!

## Mission Statement

*The primary mission of the Great South Bay Audubon Society is to advocate for the conservation of habitats for native birds and other native wildlife on Long Island.*

### **The Sandpiper**

Editor: Vera Capogna  
vlvcap@yahoo.com

Mailing Chair: Ken Thompson  
Thank you to everyone who helps mail each issue.

Illustrator: Steve D'Amato  
(as indicated)

Editorial Address:

*Sandpiper*  
GSBAS, PO Box 267  
Sayville, NY 11782

### **The Sandpiper**

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email: info@GSBAS.org  
Webmaster: Eric Larson

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vlvcap@yahoo.com



The Great South Bay Audubon Library is located at our Brookside Headquarters, 59 Brook St. in Sayville. It can be accessed Wednesday and Sunday from 1 to 3pm

Please consider joining us on one our Nature Walks listed on Page 3. Our experienced leaders are always willing to share their expertise. Everything we do centers on what's out there to be enjoyed and, if need be, protected.

Hope to see you soon!

## The Board-Walk by Annette Brownell

I am looking out the window at blue skies over beautiful snow laden giant oaks and evergreens as a few Canada geese fly over the tops into Blydenburg County Park. The American flag on its pole in front of the forest is quit visible as the white background accentuates the red and blue. Just two hours ago I was looking at what appeared to be a blizzard. Amazing and just lovely. Again and again I am reminded at how very fortunate we are to be stewards of this great land.

In January, I attended a session of the National Audubon Annual Conference in NYC where I met some of the most dynamic and energetic people involved in various conservation issues. I met the founders and owners of Zumiez Stores who were being honored for their work with the federal government in Alaska securing protection of a vast amount of wilderness land for conservation purposes. I also had the opportunity to view an environmental film documentary that focused on our choices in energy use, what has happened to our beautiful lands and our people due to choices of those who have gone before – or who still are calling a lot of shots. At the end of the film I realized that it really didn't matter if we were destroying the earth and poisoning the waters and all that depend on them in strip mining, blasting or drilling – or if we were turning to wind energy or solar power. I watched as the film boasted setting up solar panels on pathetic shanties in the poorest areas of the world, explaining how it would make these people's lives better. But the people were still living in filth and sewage – and they were charged for the panels! I realized that the biggest change needs to come from the human heart. Man will always find a way to turn the purest intention into a greedy goal for profits, exploiting and destroying anything in the path of success.

Each of us, like the watchman on the wall, can affect a change, even in the smallest way. We can watch our own step, guard our own heart, teach our own children and grandchildren to care for the world around them, love and protect our environment and the lives it holds that don't have a voice as loud as a human's. Speak up. Teach people. Make them aware. So many people are unaware. People are still releasing balloons over the ocean to make themselves feel better over the loss of a loved one!

I hope you will join us in our efforts as we attempt to make a difference. Join our Brookside cleanup day as we embrace our commitment as stewards of this county park. Bring a young person to the cleanup day and then come to the June outdoor program and enjoy the park you helped clean. Take advantage of the monthly meetings and other activities going on.

We, as Great South Bay Audubon Society, have a wonderful opportunity in front of us.

## The Sky's Falling by Harry Anderson

*What did posterity ever do for me?" - Mark Twain*

How do you get the entire world to cooperate on anything considering that there are over 20 wars being waged throughout the globe at the present moment. Even the compromises struck in Europe with the introduction of the euro are tenuous. The current refugee crisis remains stubbornly unresolved.

International agreement about the looming global warming crisis might finally and formally have been faced at the recent Paris conference, but what to do about it certainly wasn't. The realities go immeasurably beyond a summit and gourmet dinners.

Four hundred million people in India have no electricity because the grid doesn't go that far. China has been building 16 new coal fired power plants, and last December, pollution was so bad in Metropolitan Beijing, 24,900,00 people were advised to stay indoors. More than two-thirds of the population of sub-Saharan Africa is without electricity, and more than 85 percent of those living in rural areas lack access. How strong is their voice - if they have one. One topic brought up by Third World Countries was never discussed - consumption of energy. The United States uses more power during the Holidays than many countries use all year round.

You can't "see" posterity. The closest we come to experience it is to involve ourselves in utopian or dystopian literature. Neither offers solutions, just entertainment, something we may not need more of.

In mid December, "agreement" was finally reached at the Paris conference. At least participants agreed that the climate was indeed changing and the issue had to be addressed, somehow and soon - two operative words.

The first global warming foreboding was 50 years ago and it sat unattended to, unheeded. The first formal recognition of climate issues was by a Swedish scientist named Svante Arrhenius. In 1896 he warned of the "greenhouse effect." It too went unrecognized. As it turned out, over 200 years later, Chicken Little could be right - the sky might indeed be falling, but who is willing to catch it?

# Great South Bay Audubon Society Activities

## General Membership Meetings and Programs

All General Membership Meetings are held at Connetquot River State Park Preserve in the beautiful and historic main building. The entrance is in the back of the building; please park near the garages. There is a handicap ramp at this entrance. Please do not park on the grass or in the circle in front of the building.

Join us at 7:00 p.m. for pre-program refreshments and casual conversation. Our bird experts will be on hand to field your questions, discuss equipment and share their favorite birding spots.

**Directions to the Connetquot River State Park Preserve:** Approaching from the East, the entrance is on the north side of the Sunrise Highway (Route 27), opposite the Sunrise-Montauk Highway merge. From the West, exit Sunrise Highway (Route 27) at Oakdale-Bohemia Road, cross over Sunrise Highway, merge on to westbound Route 27 and watch for the Park entrance on the right.

## Louise Titus Memorial Tuesday Midweek Walks

**Tuesday, Mar 15, 9:30 Sunken Meadow SP** Meet in the main parking lot in front of the main pavilion near the traffic circle.

**Tuesday, Mar 22, 9:30 Heckscher SP** Meet in the Field 5 parking lot at the west end of the field.

**Tuesday, Mar 29, 9:30 Jones Beach WE SP** Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near the Coast Guard Station.

**Tuesday, April 5, 9:30 Jamaica Bay NWR** Southern State Pkwy. to Belt Pkwy. to Exit 17, Cross Bay Blvd. South. Continue south for about 2 miles. Look for entrance of refuge on the right (west) side. There are signs for park entrance.

**Tuesday, April 12, 9:30 Robert Moses SP** Meet in Field 5 at the northeast corner

**Tuesday, April 19, 9:00 Gardiners Park** Entrance on south side of Montauk Hwy (27A). From west, ½ mile east of Robert Moses Pkwy. From east, 1 mile west of Brightwaters Canal.

**Tuesday, April 26, 9:00 Norman Levy & Jones Beach WE** Southern State Pkwy. to Meadowbrook Pkwy. south to Merrick Road (27A). Go east on Merrick Road approximately 1/8 mile and turn right into the Norman J. Levy Park.

## Weekend Nature Walks

**Saturday, March 5, 8:30 am, Bob Laskowski Memorial Duck Walk** Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Meet at Brookwood Hall, Islip Town Park in East Islip on Irish Lane between Montauk Hwy and Union Blvd.

**Saturday, April 23, 8:30 am, Connetquot River SPP** Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028) Meet in parking field. Entrance is on the westbound side of Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27) west of Pond Road. If coming from west to east, Take exit 47A and go to the next overpass, Oakdale Bohemia Rd. to cross over bridge, then head westbound and stay in right lane to entrance.

**Saturday, April 30, 8:00 am, Valley Stream SP & Jones Beach West End** Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), Steve D'Amato (631-264-8413) Southern State Parkway to exit 15S, North Corona Ave. No Corona Ave to Hendrickson Ave (.07 mi) turn right at Hendrickson Ave. Hendrickson Ave. to Fletcher Ave (.3 mi) turn right on Fletcher Ave. Fletcher Ave North to Valley Stream State Park entrance on right (.2 mi). Park at far end of lot.

**Saturday May 7, 7:00 am, Central Park**

Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), Steve D'Amato (631-264-8413), Nick Laviola (631-678-7866) Meet on Central Park West at 77th Street (opposite the Museum of Natural History).



*Beautiful views of the skyscrapers of NYC set against the greenery of Central Park, an amazing variety of birds, expert guides, and perfect temperatures are just a few of the things that make this trip one of our best.*

## Young Naturalists Club

**Meets first Sunday of the month at 1:15pm, Brookside County Park, 59 Brook St. Sayville**

The Young Naturalists Club focuses on learning about nature and stewardship of a natural area. Outdoor activities include crafting nature boxes and pinecone feeders, nature scavenger hunts, hiking the trails, gardening, and maintaining bird-feeding stations. Indoor activities include examining birds' nests and feather displays and special presentations on subjects such as the Northern Bobwhite Quail, local marine creatures, and bird watching. For details on upcoming Young Naturalists Club activities, please email [info@gsbas.org](mailto:info@gsbas.org) or call 631-581-1731, or visit our website: [www.gsbas.org](http://www.gsbas.org). Registration is not required but recommended. Program is free, but donations or joining GSBAS is encouraged.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Winter Trip Recaps

### January 9-Montauk Point

It doesn't seem fair to do our Montauk walks in above freezing weather. The weather was warm and slightly windy, not the toe-numbing cold we are used to. The trip was led by Bob Grover and Ken Thompson.

There were ten of us, and we started out by seeing a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the parking lot before we went to the overlook. At the overlook the seabirds were not as plentiful as usual, but we did have our usual mix of birds. When we went to the Camp Hero location there were the seabirds, up close and in the thousands, making for very good looks for all.

At East lake we had good looks at an Iceland Gull floating over the surf just outside the jetty. A surprise was a pair of Red-necked Grebes at the entrance to the inlet.

Wrapping up the trip by driving Dune Rd., Edith Wilson spotted an American Bittern, the master of camouflage, in the roadside ditch. A nice cap to the day as the sun was starting to set.

--Ken Thompson

### January 16 -Connetquot Breakfast and Birding

Despite the threat of bad weather the January Breakfast and Birding at Connetquot State Park Preserve was another success. The event is put on by the Connetquot State Park Preserve staff, The Friends of Connetquot and Great South Bay Audubon.

The room was again full for the continental breakfast with coffee, tea and juice. The Friends of Connetquot supplied the breakfast foods. The bagels were donated by the Melville Deli. Folks filled their plates and watched a presentation by Pam Hunter introducing winter waterfowl and birds we might expect to see.

Then we headed outside for the walks led by members of Great South Bay Audubon. We split into two groups and went to the main pond to look for ducks. We saw Gadwall, Mallards, Common Mergansers, Bufflehead, Hooded Mergansers and American Wigeons. Then we walked the paths around the building complex to look for land birds. A highlight was an off season Eastern Towhee bathing in a roadside puddle allowing us to set up a scope and get everyone a good opportunity see it up close. We had twenty five species of birds for the day. We hope to see you for our next breakfast and Birding event. --Ken Thompson

### February 6- Jones Beach West End

Ten members and friends enjoyed sunny skies and moderate temperatures as we birded Jones Inlet, first from the West End side and later on from Point Lookout. The bay behind the Coast Guard Station held most of the usual winter water birds, and we had great looks at Common and Red-throated Loons, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck and Bufflehead. A few Bonaparte's Gulls joined a mixed flock of hundreds of Dunlin and smaller numbers of Black-bellied Plover and

Sanderling off on the sandbar. At the turnaround to Field 2 we saw the long lingering Lark Sparrow, a species that is regular in fall, but quite a rarity in mid-winter. We didn't manage to find any Snowy Owls in dunes west of Field 2, but several Horned Larks

and American Pipits served as consolation prizes.

Over on the Point Lookout side we added Razorbill and Common Eider to the day list, and came across a group of about 25 Horned Grebes, the best collection most of us have seen for several years. Total species count for this pleasant winter outing day was 42 species.

--Mike Cooper

## Young Naturalists Club "Hidden Treasures of the Winter Woods"

On this sunny, cold first Sunday of the year, January 3, 2016, the Young Naturalists Club met at Brookside County Park in Sayville. Club members gathered around the big oak meeting table to discuss the birds found in our backyards this time of year. As children noted species of birds that they had encountered before, they read the species name aloud, and told of their own backyard experiences with these birds. A pile of feathers from birds representing many species found locally were displayed on the table. The children were asked to identify the feathers based on the pictures in the guide books. Easily recognized were the cardinal, blue-jay and the woodpecker. Ellie was quick to indicate the feathers associated with the mourning dove, while Austin knew the red feathers of the cardinal and Bella correctly chose the black and white polka dotted feathers for the woodpecker. Most difficult for the children to identify were the feathers of the mockingbird.

With our newly honed birding knowledge and fully equipped with binoculars, the club members set out on a hike throughout the park. Luckily, the past three days of clear weather helped dry out all of the mud left behind from a very rainy December. We trekked along the trail collecting a great deal of litter. By the bridge facing the west pond, the children counted close to 30 ducks, with many mallards in the fray. Easily identified were the male mallards with their emerald green heads gleaming in the late afternoon sun. Most of the mallards were in pairs, with their courtship already begun.

Following along our route were a winter flock of Black-capped Chickadees,



Helga Merryman was lucky enough to photograph this typically elusive American Bittern on Dune Road during the trip to Montauk.

# CHAPTER NEWS



photo by Janet Gremli

*Members of the YNC resting after their long hike through Brookside*

darting in and out of the deciduous trees. Nuthatches and Mourning Doves were noted by the marshy areas near the northwest section of the park trail. The children were shown dead trees and introduced to the term "snag". Members investigated these snags to see if nesting cavities could be found. Newly chipped wood shavings were found at the base of an older, large snag located in a more swampy area. The children were amazed to see the wood shavings and to know that a bird may be nesting over the winter in the hollowed tree.

The children all agreed the best part of the hour long hike was sitting on the bench watching the ducks on the west pond in the quiet of the afternoon. The sun was soon to set and the wind had calmed as we sat in the stillness of the woods observing the placidity of the waterfowl before us.--Janet Gremli

## Upcoming Events

### Brookside Cleanup

As stewards of beautiful Brookside County Park we are inviting one and all to come have some fun and participate in our Spring cleanup. Saturday April 23 marks the date with a 10 am start time. If raking is not your thing, there are many other chores that need to be done to get this property back in shape after such a harsh winter. Please let Annette know if think you might be able to make it. We

appreciate any effort anyone can make. This might be a great opportunity for members who have wanted to get involved, but just never had the push. We'd love to see new faces and we welcome everyone! Refreshments will be supplied.

### Library Dedication

Please join us at our Library Dedication on June 12, 2016.

Over the last few years we have been re-organizing our member's library, located at Brookside. To honor our late-

great member Larry Merryman, we are dedicating our library to him. Larry was an advocate for education and it was an honor and a privilege for us to have him as such an active and important member for so many years. Please join us as we dedicate and name our library in his honor. Refreshments will be served.

### May Dinner

There's a whole lot of planning going on in preparation for our annual dinner which will be held on Monday, May 2.

Currently we are accepting prize donations: new and like-new items of a nature, garden or bird theme, as well as gift certificates. Creativity in regard to donations is always appreciated. Contact Annette Brownell if you have anything you would like to donate and we can arrange drop off or pick up. Once again a special raffle of a painting by Steve D'Amato will be held. This year, Steve is painting an Eastern Meadowlark singing in a field of greens. Here is a sneak preview (right) of the bird in the early pencil sketch stage.

See more details on front page-- and be sure to watch for your invitation toward the end of March.



art by Steve D'Amato

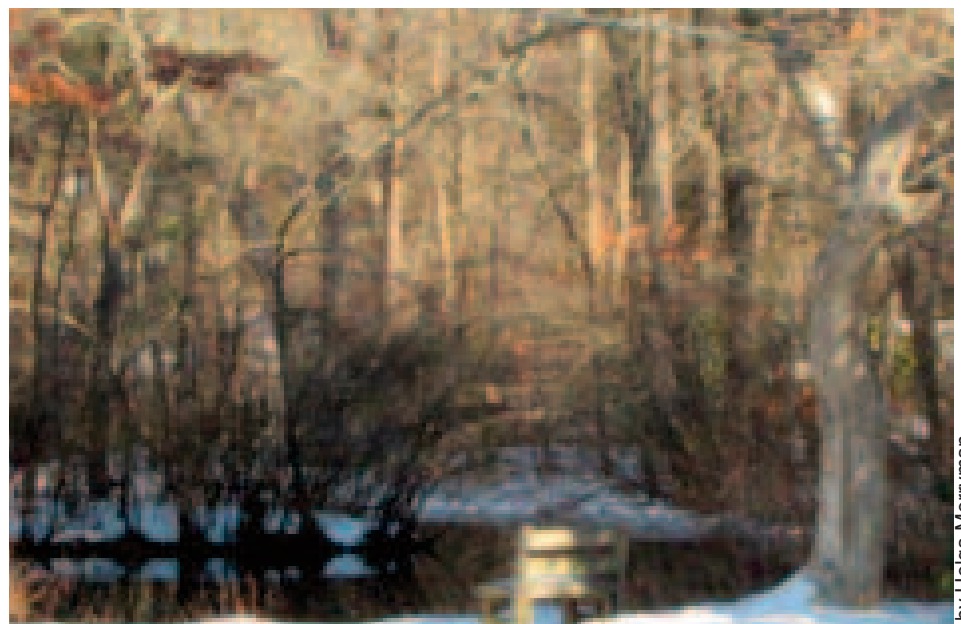


photo by Helga Merryman

*Brookside, pictured above covered in blanket of snow, will need some spiffing up after the thaw.*

# CONSERVATION ISSUES

BY BOB GROVER

## Arctic Warming

Amazingly, there are still some global warming doubters, and yes this is scary, some of them want to be President of our country. We will continue to expose their fallacies in future columns, but for now, let's focus on the problem, particularly in one important ecosystem.

The latest data shows that 15 of the 16 hottest years on record have occurred in this century, which, if you're not keeping track, is only 15 years old. We have written at length, in this column, how this warming is impacting ecosystems locally and globally. Now we will focus on the Arctic, and, specifically, on some of our beloved birds and iconic mammals.

A common theme I have seen in several news reports and research papers, is that there will be winners and losers, and, in many cases, which species are which will depend on their ability to adapt, both phenologically (timing of events such as nesting and migration), behaviorally, and physiologically. The Arctic is warming at a rate nearly double the global average, due to ocean current shifts and increased solar insolation as sea ice retreats, a phenomenon known as positive feedback. All this makes the Arctic a perfect laboratory to study the impacts of climate change.

So who will lose? Populations of Polar Bears and Walrus have plunged in some areas, since they depend on sea ice for roosting and foraging. The extent of sea ice has other impacts, as well, that are less obvious but impact a range of trophic levels. For instance, sea ice supports vast carpets of algae on its underside, and the periodic dying, decaying, and sinking of this algae supports various communities on the shallow ocean floor. This benthic community array includes populations of clams that serve as the primary food source for Common



*Can the Dovekie overcome the warming of the Arctic?*

Eiders. Reductions in the size and density of the clam beds are expected to stress the reproductive ability of the eiders. This is bad for those of us who enjoy the spectacular eider show at ocean beaches every winter, but also for Snowy Owls, who utilize eiders as prey when the lemming population is low.

And the winners? There actually are some. The plankton cornucopia facilitated by sea ice retreat has allowed the northern expansion of numerous fish and cetacean populations. Bowhead and Humpback Whales have capitalized on this and are thriving in the Arctic. The Wandering Albatross appears to have benefited, with shorter foraging trips and better reproductive success.

But the jury is still out on many species. One of these is the Dovekie. This diminutive seabird is generally considered to be the most numerous waterfowl species above the Arctic Circle. They do stray south in varying numbers during winter. They are often encountered by the hundreds on offshore pelagic trips, but generally eschew land and are considered a major highlight when viewed from Montauk Point and other coastal sea watch locations. When in their arctic breeding territory they feed on small copepods, relatives of shrimp, measuring about 1/5 inch in length. During breeding season, Dovekies reportedly consume hundreds of thousands of these copepods every day! However, the warming of the Arctic is scrambling the distributions of most plankton species, and the Dovekie's preferred

copepod species is being displaced by a species only 1/10 inch in length. Although the total copepod biomass might be the same, it remains to be seen if Dovekies can consume enough of them to subsist and support a nest.

Time will tell if the Dovekie can overcome the warming of the Arctic. As I write this, it is late January, and concerned that they may not, I'm anxious to get out to Montauk in the next couple of weeks in hopes of seeing one while I can.

## Impacts from El Nino *continued from front cover*

the birds of the Galapagos. The marine birds including the blue-footed booby, brown pelican, and frigate bird are struggling to feed their offspring and are laying fewer eggs. Galapagos penguins and flightless cormorants are also heavily impacted due to the lack of food in their environment. Increasing rainfall has benefited invasive species, such as fire



*Brown Pelicans and many other species of marine birds are also feeling the impact of El Nino.*

ants and tree frogs. El Nino is causing sea temperatures in the Pacific Ocean to rise, contributing to coral bleaching, while the increasingly strong waves

related to this climate event have promoted an explosion in the sea urchin population which have had devastating impacts to the entire coral reef ecosystems. The increase in sea surface temperature has reduced phytoplankton productivity which has adversely impacted the entire food web where even top predators such as sea lions are going hungry. Algal beds have been reduced to the point where the animals that feed on them, including the marine iguana, turtles and fish have suffered. Migratory species such as sharks have also moved offshore into deeper water.

These two unique regions of the world, Amazonia and Galapagos, are experiencing devastating impacts from climate change from this exceptionally strong El Nino, while here in the USA, California is experiencing critical drought levels. It is important that we continue to monitor all ecosystems related to extreme weather phenomena to better understand where wildlife will be impacted, and equally important, how all populations, indigenous and local peoples, may have reduced access to food and clean water resources now and in the future.

# BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Compiled by Helga Merryman



If you were a youngster during WW 2 (probably a male), you might have had a pack of airplane spotting cards with silhouettes enabling you to differentiate enemy from allied planes. You used an observation tool referred to as GISS, an acronym for General Impression Size and Shape. I had heard this term many times and thought it originated in WW2, but was surprised to discover that the term was in use by birders as early as the 1920s.

GISS may be derived from the German word gestalt defined as-- the unified whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts. GISS is the total first impression we get; size, shape, flight pattern, and unique behavior, etc. For example; is it as large as a swan, small as a hummingbird or somewhere in between- slender as an egret or chubby as a Woodcock- calm as a dozing Mourning Dove or nervously active as a kinglet- does it bob its head like a Spotted Sandpiper or cock its tail as a wren does -undulate in flight as a woodpecker or soar as a hawk, when all these characteristics are reviewed and united in our computer like brains we have its GISS. During migration, experienced hawk watchers spying raptors approaching from great distances initially recognize them by their GISS, and their identification is usually proven to be correct when the hawks fly closer. GISS is great to at least determine the family and then with closer identification the species can also be confirmed.

Thank you to the 12 participants who reported from their feeders in nine locations including, Babylon, Bayport, Bluepoint, Deer Park, Lake Ronkonkoma, Lindenhurst, Ridge, West Islip and West Sayville As I write this in early February, it looks as though Mother Nature finally woke up and realized that she forgot to send snow, so she is making up for lost time. It will be interesting to see what pops up at our feeders in this snowy environment.

The GSBAS Feeder Survey has been run for many years. The reward of the survey is to bring awareness of nature to our doorstep and share our observations with others. Everyone is welcome to join the survey.

## How does the survey work?

- 1) The counting period is 5 months from November to March. You may choose to participate for only one month, several months or the full period of five months.
- 2) During the first 15 days of each month, keep your feeders filled. Whenever you view your feeders, count the number of each individual bird species you observe. Report the largest number of each individual species seen at any one time, e.g., if you see 10 Cardinals on the 1st, 5 on the 2nd, 3 on the 3rd - report the largest number observed, i.e., 10. These birds can actually be at your feeder or attracted to your yard by the feeding activity.
- 3) Make five (5) copies of the form printed in the Sept/Oct Sandpiper, use (1) form per month to record the largest number of individuals of any species that you see at one time.
- 4) No later than the 19th of each survey month, mail your completed form to Helga Merryman, 38 South Carll Ave, Babylon, N.Y., 11702. You can also email your sightings and photos to me at eider55owl@optonline.net, please put FEEDER SURVEY in the subject line. I will compile the information and the results will be published in the following issue of The Sandpiper.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Survey Data: Period from December 1-15/January 1-15

Red-tailed Hawk 1/3	Red-breasted Nuthatch 0/1	Brown-headed Cowbird 0/3
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2/2	White-breasted Nuthatch 13/17	House Finch 69/102
Cooper's Hawk 5/5	Carolina Wren 10/15	American Goldfinch 28/22
Rock Pigeon 23/20	American Robin 24/34	House Sparrow 12/235
Mourning Dove 107/111	Northern Mockingbird 8/11	
Monk Parakeet 4/3	Brown Thrasher 0/0	OTHER SPECIES
Red-bellied Woodpecker 8/11	European Starling 148/613+	Great Blue Heron 0/2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 0/1	Towhee 0/0	Canada Goose 0/4
Downy Woodpecker 20/23	Fox Sparrow 6/7	Mallard Duck 0/8
Hairy Woodpecker 6/4	Song Sparrow 22/27	Northern Harrier 1/1
Northern Flicker 3/4	White-throated Sparrow 61/47	Belted Kingfisher 0/1
Blue Jay 24/51	Dark-eyed Junco 17/39	Common Raven 0/1
American Crow 24/28	Northern Cardinal 31.53	Myrtle Warbler 1/0
Black-capped Chickadee 3/29	Red-winged Blackbird 11/10	Tree Sparrow 0/1
Tufted Titmouse 5/6	Common Grackle 34/135	Boat-tailed Grackle 7/5

# Great South Bay Audubon Society

## Officers

President: (Position Pending)  
Vice-president: (Position Pending)  
Treasurer: Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405  
Corresponding Secretary:  
Sharon Kienzle (631) 943-5748  
Recording Secretary: Arlene Rawls (516) 712-9514

## Board of Directors

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## Committee Chairs

Brookside: Peter O'Connor (631) 466-4360  
Hospitality: Mary Plant (631) 284-3713  
Conservation: Maria Brown  
Membership: Arlene Rawls (516) 712-9514  
Publicity: Helga Merryman (631) 669-6473  
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Audubon Activist: Open  
Newsletter: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969  
Nature Walks: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028  
Programs: Peter O'Connor (631) 466-4360  
Librarian: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969  
Annual Dinner:  
Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405  
Mailing: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028  
Email Responder: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969  
Answering the GSBAS Direct Phone:  
Steve D'Amato  
GSBAS Direct Phone Number (631) 563-7716  
GSBAS Email address: info@gsbas.org

For wildlife in need of rescue please call The STAR  
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