



The Sandpiper

Great South Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Birds of a Feather Color Polymorphism in Birds

By Steve D'Amato

There are many bird species which have different color variations. Most color variations are related to location within the species' geographic distribution. For example, the Red-tailed Hawk has at least a half dozen color morphs across North America, all related to geographic location. The lightest is Krider's, the darkest being either a dark morph Western or a Harlan's. However, many of the buteonine hawks have only light and dark morphs. In many cases, the rarer dark phase raptors are restricted in geographic distribution, birds like Short-tailed, Rough-legged, Ferruginous, Swainson's, and Broad-winged Hawks. For example, with the dark phase Short-tailed Hawk, the Florida populations 80% dark morph; in the rest of the range, from central Mexico through mid-South America, it is 20% dark morphs. The rare dark morph Broad-winged Hawk seems to be restricted to the far western portion of its breeding range in Alberta.

Another 'famous' raptor with distinct color variations is the Gyrfalcon, with its archetypical morphs described as white, gray/silver, and black. These color phases are also related to geographic distribution and habitat. For example, in North America, the white morph or phase of the Gyrfalcon is predominantly found in Greenland (and Iceland), the dark morph is usually found in Labrador and Newfoundland, and gray/silver morphs, being the most widespread, are found between. Habitat pressure seems to have played a role in morph color. Greenland being mostly a treeless tundra, much of which is covered in snow, a dark bird would stand out; therefore a white morph would best survive in that environment. In the forests of Labrador and Newfoundland, a white bird would stand out, so the dark morph would best survive there.

Just some examples of other groups of birds which have distinctive color morphs are the herons/egrets, geese, jaegers/skuas, sparrows, etc. With many of these species with distinctive color morphs, there is usually a dominant/recessive gene relationship between plumage color. Reddish Egrets (along with Little Blue Herons, Eastern and Western Reef Herons, etc.) have a very distinctive white morph. There is a single gene locus which determines this egret's colors wherein it follows the standard Mendelian relationship for dominant/recessive genes, the gene for the white morph being recessive. The Great Blue Heron has a Great White Heron morph which for many years was accepted as a separate species. However, when the two morphs interbreed, the Great Blue morph is not 100% dominant over the white morph: the resultant young have a distinctive

continued on page 6



Great White Heron, white morph of the Great Blue Heron

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.

New Meeting Location:
*Seatuck Environmental Association
at the Scully Estate in Islip*
See page 3 for address and directions

Thursday, November 16

Joyann Cirigliano, Habitat Specialist

Many gardeners are also birdwatchers, and vice versa. Sadly, many species of birds are in decline, but by using our yards, we can help our avian neighbors increase their numbers. Find out what our feathered friends look for in summer, winter and during migration. 'Ecoscaping' our yards can help restore balance and create safe harbors for wildlife. By blending aesthetics and ecology, landscapes that are both attractive and functional can be created.

Thursday, December 21

Annual Member Participation and Holiday Celebration Night

Bring a treat to share, if you'd like, along with anything else you would like to share, such as photos, poetry, stories, books, etc. This is the last meeting of 2017 and it will give us an opportunity to take stock, look ahead, reflect on 2018 and enjoy some good company.

Connetquot Breakfast & Birding



Saturday, January 13

8:00 am - 11:00 am



Connetquot River State Park Preserve

See Details on Page 3

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.

Editorial Address:

Sandpiper
GSBAS, PO Box 267
Sayville, NY 11782

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email: info@GSBAS.org
Webmaster: Eric Larson

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send submissions to
vlvcap@yahoo.com



The Larry Merryman Memorial Library

is located at Brookside,
59 Brook St. in Sayville.
It can be accessed Wednesday
and Sunday
from 1 to 3pm



Please Note our New
Meeting Location!
See page 3 for details

The Board-Walk by Annette Brownell

As the season changes and we drift deeper into autumn, I find myself getting up on the dark side of the morning these days. It seems daily now I have pullets turning into hens. (A pullet is a young female chicken from about the age of 5 weeks until the time she starts laying eggs, at which time she becomes a hen.) I have been waiting for these days for a while. Among the anticipated events of the new season, which for Great South Bay Audubon is the new year, we have been working and scheming ways to keep our programs and activities fun and fresh. Nature walks are a wonderful part of life. Although Mother Nature is sometimes not the kindest to humans, it is hard to beat the splendor of it all. Check out the schedule on facing page.

Aside from terrific speakers and the makings of our third art class, it is our turn to host the Long Island Conference. We will be hosting it on November 4th at Seatuck for sake of space. There will be an early morning bird walk, breakfast with fellowship and discussion and then an informational seminar presented by Enrico Nardone as he shares his vision for reviving the rivers of Long Island. This would be a great opportunity for anyone who is considering taking a more active role in our Chapter and mission. If you might be interested in attending, please let us know by October 30 so we can plan accordingly.

Keep an eye out for some things that are in the planning stages. We hope to unveil some projects and programs to involve the builder, gardener, conservationist and learner in everyone.

BYOM

You have heard of MYOB (mind your own business) and BYOB (bring your own booze); now we have BYOM – bring your own mug. As we are holding our meetings at Seatuck Environmental Center, we have been asked to use reusable vessels for our coffee and tea, which is a great idea. As I was chuckling over these acronyms (my daughter had to tell me what a BFF was-and I still can't quite get it-that LOL doesn't mean "lots of love"), my thoughts turned to the fact that birds have had the same language since their creation. Their songs and their communications have remained the same and they seem to get along fine. Could you imagine if birders had to relearn the latest bird jargon when they went out? It would be like trying to connect with a teenager! -Annette Brownell

Pokeweed by Harry Anderson

Weeds are hardly aware of their persistence, but it never stops their stubborn nature to endure, without any intervention on our part. Growing roses or nurturing a bonsai tree takes knowledge, skill and patience, but weeds will do what they have to do all by themselves and can adapt to virtually anything, sometimes even herbicides. And they are obviously very good at it.

One such, called "pokeweed," has been called "the garden villain" for good reason. One suddenly arose in a flower bed and virtually grew as you looked at it. I decided to allow to grow as it would, and after a week it was tree-like and four feet tall, and arguably rather attractive. In three more days, after its whitish flower clusters appeared, two more started to spring to life. Time to act. . .

The villainous part of its reputation begins with its toxicity. The highest concentration of poison is in root stock, but all of it, leaves, stems and ripe fruit present a problem. Ingesting its fruit can kill small children and make adults very sick. Even handling parts of it can cause dermatitis. Cedar waxwings, cat birds and cardinals, however, are immune to its toxins and consume it with impunity.

Ironically, pokeweed was used in the 19th century as a folk medicine and in the 1890s it was taken as a weight loss drug - it was a violent emetic, so dropping a pound or two was no surprise.

Getting rid of pokeweed is not easy. To begin with, you have to use gloves. The very toxic root can be more than foot down into the soil and is very stubborn and very tenacious about giving up. All of it should not simply be dumped in the trash because it will thrive in landfills. It must be bagged before being taken away.

Its seeds have a long viability in the soil, and the birds that ingest its fruit and give it to us to begin with, will give it back to us again. Count on it.



Birds are immune to the toxicity of the pokeweed fruit.

Great South Bay Audubon Society Activities

Please Note
Location Change

General Membership Meetings and Programs

All General Membership Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month

(except for May, July and August). Join us at 7:00 pm 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.

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR MEETINGS: Seatuck Environmental Association located at the Scully Estate, 550 South Bay Avenue, Islip NY 11751. **Directions:** Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27) to Exit 45 (Rte. 111/Islip/Smithtown), Follow signs to Rte. 111 South toward Islip. Rte. 111 ends at Main St. (Rte. 27A). Turn right onto Main St. (Rte. 27A). Turn left at first traffic light onto South Bay Ave. The entrance to the Environmental Center is almost exactly one mile south of Main St. on the right. Park in the main parking lot on your left.

Louise Titus Memorial Tuesday Walks

Tuesday Oct 24, 9:30 am, Jones Beach West End • Meet in the parking lot at the Marina near the Coast Guard Station.

Tuesday Oct 31, 9:30 am, Blydenburg CP • Entrance on Veterans Highway just west of the Route 347 merge. Use Blydenburgh entrance, not Greengate Park entrance. Meet in the parking lot at the boat ramp area.

Tuesday Nov 7, 9:30 am, Sunken Meadow SP • Meet in the main parking lot in front of the main pavilion near the traffic circle.

Weekend Nature Walks

Saturday November 18, 8:00 am, Wertheim NWR • Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120) Vera Capogna (516-639-5430)

From the intersection of Montauk and William Floyd Highways in Shirley, proceed West on Montauk Highway 7/10 of a mile to traffic light (Smith Road) turn left, go over the railroad tracks and proceed to a right into Wertheim Visitor Center. There are signs both on Montauk Highway and on Smith Road at the turnoff into Wertheim.

Sunday November 19, 9:00 am, Morton NWR • Leaders: Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028) Sunrise Highway east past Shinnecock Canal.

Look for a North Sea Road Noyack sign and bear left on CR52. Stay on CR52 and then turn left at light onto CR38. After 1.4 miles on CR38, turn right onto Noyack Road. After 5 miles turn left onto refuge.

Saturday December 9, 9:00 am,

Montauk • Leaders Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Ken Thompson (631-612-8028) Meet at Lighthouse parking lot. Latecomers can still join in the vicinity of the restaurant overlook. Directions: Route 27 to 27A to end.

Saturday January 6, 9:00 am,

Montauk • Leaders: John Gluth (631-827-0120), Ken Thompson (631-612-8028) Meet at Lighthouse parking lot. Latecomers can still join in the vicinity of the restaurant overlook. Directions: Route 27 to 27A to end.



Scanning for birds at Deep Hollow Ranch, one of the stops we make on the Montauk trip.

Saturday January 13, 8:00 am, Connetquot River SPP, Birding & Breakfast • Leaders: Bob & Edith Wilson, Ken Thompson, Helga Merryman, Jack Carlson Continental breakfast hosted by Friends of Connetquot. Reservations required: Call Connetquot River State Park Preserve at (631) 581-1072 to register. Registration fee \$4. plus \$8 parking fee, unless you have Empire pass.

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 or call 631-581-1731, or visit our website: www.gsbas.org. Registration is not required but recommended. Program is free, but donations or joining GSBAS is encouraged.

CHAPTER NEWS

New Faces at Great South Bay Audubon

Great South Bay Audubon Society is thrilled to welcome recent new members, volunteers and board members: There is still room for more!

Be sure to say "Hi" to Audrey Collins at our next general membership meeting. Audrey has taken over Hospitality and will be responsible for setting up and taking care of refreshments for meeting and events. Thank you Audrey!

Taking over the role of Membership is Rosemary Camilleri. Rosemary will be responsible for maintaining our membership records and rosters, and supplying labels for all our mailings. We welcome her and at the same time thank Julianne Wohler for all her work in the past.

Not only is Amy Duryea a new member of our Board of Directors and a Brookside Volunteer, but she is also handling volunteer activities at Brookside County Park, as well as attempting to minimize vandalism. Amy has 20 years in financial services and is currently a Vice President in the Human Resources division for Citizen's Bank. Amy is very excited to be part of such a vibrant and committed organization and looks forward to a long

future with the GSBAS. Amy's enthusiasm and energy will certainly be an asset to our chapter.

Another new addition to our Board of Directors is Michael Maraviglia. Michael was named an All-American Scholar in 2004, having received a Bachelor of Science from Dowling College in Oakdale with a double major in Mathematics and Natural Sciences. He worked for eight summers in the Islip Town Parks, followed by almost twelve years of shellfish research in Environmental Control. While doing shellfish restoration work for Islip, he's grown and planted hundreds of millions of clam and oysters in the Great South Bay. In 2008 he accepted a position working for Suffolk County. For the past nine years he's worked on projects ranging from pesticides, to brownfields, to mitigating nitrogen impacts to our local waterways. He developed the programmatic foundation for the Land Bank program and administers the county's

Pesticide Community Advisory Committee and Brownfields Workgroup. We are excited to have Michael share his expertise and vision.

We thank and welcome these new volunteers. However, we are still in need of people for the following important jobs: **Audubon Good Egg Program Coordinator** "Be a Good Egg" is a program that works to reduce human disturbances to beach-nesting and migratory shorebirds. It protects the Piping Plovers and other vulnerable shorebirds. This job entails coordinating with NY Audubon, getting permits and organizing volunteers. Please email us at info@gsbas.org or call (631) 563-7716 to discuss this position. **Dinner Chairman** (trainee) This is a big undertaking, but fun and rewarding. Trainee(s) will work with Annette Brownell this coming year for a smooth transition into the following year. Contact Annette at 631-665-4405 or email her at nettiesbaskets2@optonline.net

Stop and Shop Fundraiser

Our Cash for Causes fundraiser continues as we add a \$25 gift card, along with the \$50 cards. This is a "risk free, have to eat anyway" fundraiser. We hope that more people will support this activity. Mail a check made



payable to Great South Bay Audubon Society (GSBAS) to Annette Brownell at 1411 Saxon Ave., Bay Shore NY 11706, along with a stamped, self addressed envelope and the cards will be mailed to you.

Back by Popular Demand: Our Third Art Class

We will be having another paint class on November 18th from 2-4. I've been asked several times when the next one will be! We've had this class two times already and it was a lot of fun. This time we will paint shore birds. You don't need to be an artist or know how to paint. I will give step-by-step instruction and work with you to complete your painting. Be-

cause our chapter is also holding a nature walk that morning at Weirtheim NWR, we planned the art class for later in the day in case anyone would like to participate in both. The fee is \$15. Please sign up one week before the class by emailing me at: crabnose88@yahoo.com. See you then!

--Jody Banaszak

Winter Gull ID Workshop

Identifying gulls can be a tricky thing. Identifying gulls in various plumages can be even trickier. Fortunately for us, Mike Cooper is here to the rescue!

Great South Bay Audubon will be holding a Winter Gull Identification Workshop on Saturday December 2 with Mike Cooper. The workshop will begin at Brookside County Park at 9 am, where Mike will present a lecture and a



Learn clues to identify gulls in flight.

slide show. During this time, he will give an overview of important feather groups and then discuss the common species of gulls here on Long Island and how their plumage changes with age. Mike will also spend some time discussing scanning strategies, such as how to go through a flock and what you can look for on the first pass through. Five species will be targeted: Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Great Black-back, Laughing Gull and Bonaparte's Gull. Also included will be Lesser Black-back, Iceland, Glaucous, Black-headed and Little Gulls.

After the lecture we will head out into the field, (location to be determined that day) to find these gulls and test our newly acquired skills.

You must register for this event. There is no charge and open to the public. Call Vera Capogna at (516) 639-5430 or email: vlvcap@yahoo.com to register. Space is limited.

CHAPTER NEWS

Fall Nature Walks Recap Tuesday, Sept. 5, Heckscher SP

We met in Field 5 of on a beautiful morning. It was somewhat warm but breezy enough to compensate. We tried to walk the NW path from the field but the onslaught of mosquitoes drove us back. We then proceeded to Field 7 to check the remaining puddles and bayside shore line for shorebirds and what else we could see.

We did manage to see a couple of shorebirds: Black-bellied Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated Sandpipers and Killdeer. At the end of the walk there was an Osprey standing in the puddle. -Ken Thompson



Photo by Ken Thompson

Saturday, Sept. 9, Jamaica Bay NWR

We were joined by some members of Saw Mill River Audubon for a total of ten people on a mission to spot the American Avocet that had been seen there that week. The walk to the north end of the East Pond, where it had last been seen, was in vain; we returned to the parking lot to find the bird had moved to the south end. (birds *do* fly) We did manage to come up with over 34 species for the day including a Bald Eagle. -Vera Capogna

Tues, Sept 12, Shinnecock and Dune Rd

Another nice day for our walk, a little more summer like than fall but still a nice day. We met at the inlet and found a bunch of shorebirds hiding in the wrack line on the beach. There were fifteen or so Semi-palmated Plovers of different plumages, and some Sanderlings and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. Inside the bay on the sand bar were a group of American Oystercatchers.

We then started our caravan down Dune Rd. The high tide seemed to limit the number of birds. We did see lots of Egrets, both Snowy and Great with a few Great Blue Herons mixed in. We had a few shorebirds scattered among the different stops with a Clapper Rail heard at the last stop. -Ken Thompson

Saturday, Sept. 23, Robert Moses SP

There was an excellent showing of 14 people (including trip leaders) for the 9/23 walk at Robert Moses State Park (hawk watch) and Fire Island National Seashore's lighthouse area.

It was a beautiful morning though it got a bit unseasonably warm toward the end of the walk. The wind overnight and through the morning was northerly, seemingly favorable for bird migration, but it was not due to the normal reason – the passage of a cold front. Instead it was because of departing tropical storm José's position out over the Atlantic. This atypical condition limited the number and diversity of birds encountered, but we still saw enough to keep things interesting. Highlights included 2 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Common Loon, 5 Kestrel, 11 Merlin, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 2 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 9 Common Yellowthroat, 10 Palm Warbler, 3 Savannah Sparrow, 2 Swamp Sparrow, and 1 Bobolink.

Fall migration still has much in store so be sure to get out as much as possible, especially down to the barrier beaches on those crisp mornings with north winds. It's likely to be very rewarding. -John Gluth

Tuesday, Oct 3, Massapequa Preserve

Today's birding was a little slow. We had 23 species of birds, most of the usual suspects. A lot of the birds were heard only. We had a good look at Great Blue Heron and an Eastern Phoebe.

The walks are called nature walks for a reason. As we look for birds we also observe



Chinese Mantis discovered during the Massapequa Preserve nature walk. Photo by Ken Thompson

other facets of nature including plants animals, and insects. At the end of the walk we stumbled across what looked like a Praying Mantis. In looking it up in my insect book it looks like a Chinese Mantis. Both are introduced species. The Praying Mantis was accidentally introduced in 1899 on nursery stock from Europe. The Chinese Mantis was intentionally introduced in 1896. -Ken Thompson

Tuesday, October 10 Robert Moses State Park

Our intention was to spend some time at the hawk watch platform. The weather was spectacular, maybe a little hot, but a gorgeous day. The wind was mild out of the west northwest. Conditions should have been good but the hawks apparently didn't think so. We only saw a Peregrine, a Cooper's Hawk and a Merlin in our time on the platform.

Our quest along the boardwalk to the light house did get us a couple of nice birds. We saw a Brown Thrasher, a Cedar Waxwing, multiple Swamp Sparrows and a lot of Northern Mockingbirds. The Yellow-rumped Warblers are also starting to show now as well. One mockingbird posed for us to see it in its splendor. -Ken Thompson



Group shot at the Robert Moses Lighthouse with the Atlantic Ocean as a backdrop.

Photo by Vera Capogna

Birds and Climate Change

There are Many Ways We Can Help Threatened Species

In a previous issue of *The Sandpiper*, we learned about how and why specific bird species such as the Bald Eagle, American Oystercatcher and the Wood Thrush are being threatened by climate change. As alarming as it is, we do not have to feel powerless. It's clear that each of us has an opportunity to be the voice for birds and aggressively combat the urgent threat of climate change. We must protect the places birds need to thrive and survive, now and into the future, and to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Here are some tips to get you started making your yard and lifestyle climate smart.

Create a healthy backyard habitat for birds:

- Landscape with native plants to provide bird-friendly food and shelter
- Expand planting beds to reduce lawn size, the need for mowing, and save gas
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide and fertilizer use when possible



American Oystercatcher, one of the many bird species threatened by climate change.

Reduce your personal carbon footprint:

- Use energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and turn them off when not in use.
- Turn off outside lights at night to help migrating birds
- Buy locally made products and services
- Use mass transit, carpool, walk or bike
- Choose a fuel efficient vehicle when possible

Spread the word:

- Talk to friends, family, and colleagues about how climate change is impacting birds, why it matters to you and what they can do to help
- Work with building managers/municipal leaders to take similar steps to create healthy habitats for birds and reduce emissions
- Contribute to citizen science. Track your bird observations in eBird.org (see article below) and participate in programs like the Christmas Bird Count and Great Backyard Bird Count.

What is eBird?

eBird is a real-time, online checklist program that allows the birding community to report bird sightings and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance through checklist data. A simple and intuitive web-interface allows tens of thousands of participants to submit their observations or view results via interactive queries into the eBird database. eBird encourages users to participate by providing Internet tools that maintain their personal bird

records and enable them to visualize data with interactive maps, graphs, and bar charts.

A birder simply enters when, where, and how they went birding, then fills out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. eBird provides various options for data gathering including point counts, transects, and area searches. Automated data quality filters developed by regional bird experts review all submissions before they enter the database. Local experts review unusual records that are flagged by the filters.

eBird data are stored in a secure facility and archived daily, and are accessible to anyone via the eBird web site and other applications developed by the global biodiversity information community.

Contributions made to eBird increase our understanding of the distribution, richness, and uniqueness of the biodiversity of our planet.

eBird website address : www.ebird.org

CONSERVATION TIPS

by Diane

Don't throw out the scraps, eat them!

In the U.S. it is estimated that up to 40% of our food is wasted. Get double duty from your beets by cooking the tops like any green. Broccoli and cauliflower stems can be made into slaw, cut up for crudité or added to soups. Save those carrot tops! Use in soups and stocks or make carrot top pesto. Save celery, leek, and radish leaves for soups and salads or garnishes. Grape seed oil – made from wine grape seeds; high smoking point is good for cooking.

Potato skins – don't peel them!
Salmon skin – crispy salmon skin puffs with buttermilk-horse radish dip.

Enjoy! -Diane Ives

from *Scraps, Wilt & Weeds: Turning Wasted Food into Plenty* by Mads Refslund.

Color Polymorphism in Birds from page 1

'mixture' of a white head atop what looks like a Great Blue Heron's body and is known as Würdemanns Heron.

This same Mendelian relationship exists between the blue and white morphs of the Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*. The

dark bodied – white headed blue morph has just a single gene which is 'completely dominant' over the white morph's corresponding gene, resulting in the plumage difference.

So as we can see, species color polymor-

phism may be determined by local geographic conditions or environmental pressures, but when multiple morphs live side by side, it is usually a dominant-recessive gene relationship between the feather patterns which determines coloration.



BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Compiled by Helga Merryman
2017 - 2018



Fall is lovely, a time to sit back, relax and not dwell on whatever we didn't get to earlier in the year. It also might be a good time to think about adding a birdhouse to encourage a bird friendly environment around our home. In the past I've had mixed luck with bird houses. Years ago an attempt to lure Purple Martins to our yard with a martin apartment house, only succeeded in providing expensive housing for House Sparrows. The first wren box I put up was occupied with House Wrens almost before I reached my house. The next wren box took two years to be occupied, and now I'm looking forward to next spring to try out a new one. One of our members has successfully welcomed Screech Owls to nest in a box he provided on his property, and others report Chickadees nesting year after year. A little preliminary research might have saved us from spending money on an expensive birdhouse that was never occupied by the species it was intended for. There is a lot of information available about birdhouses, what to look for whether building or buying. Do a little research to determine what birds are likely to be in your vicinity and are they the type to be attracted to a nest box. If you are building a box, use only untreated lumber. There are plans for birdhouses on the internet and in books. Determine what specifications the box has to have to attract and shelter a specific species; the entrance size is very important for individual species. There should not be a perch, as a predator may use it to gain access to the nest. Location is everything, height from the ground, which direction should it face, should it be on a post in an open field or hung from a branch in a shady spot, is it vulnerable to predators, these are some things to consider when choosing a spot. And remember to be a good landlord and clean out the house before the next nesting season.

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. I look forward to a new season with our past participants and welcome all newcomers.

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 below. 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, NY, 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*.

Survey Data: period from _____ to _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Red-tailed Hawk _____ | Northern Flicker _____ | Brown Thrasher _____ | Brown-headed Cowbird _____ |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk _____ | Blue Jay _____ | European Starling _____ | House Finch _____ |
| Cooper's Hawk _____ | American Crow _____ | Towhee _____ | American Goldfinch _____ |
| Rock Pigeon _____ | Black-capped Chickadee _____ | Fox Sparrow _____ | House Sparrow _____ |
| Mourning Dove _____ | Tufted Titmouse _____ | Song Sparrow _____ | |
| Monk Parakeet _____ | Red-breasted Nuthatch _____ | White-throated Sparrow _____ | OTHER SPECIES |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker _____ | White-breasted Nuthatch _____ | Dark-eyed Junco _____ | _____ |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker _____ | Carolina Wren _____ | Northern Cardinal _____ | _____ |
| Downy Woodpecker _____ | American Robin _____ | Red-winged Blackbird _____ | _____ |
| Hairy Woodpecker _____ | Northern Mockingbird _____ | Common Grackle _____ | _____ |

Great South Bay Audubon Society

Officers

President: (Position Pending)

Vice-president: (Position Pending)

Treasurer: Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405

Corresponding Secretary:

Tim Meyer (631) 346-0198

Recording Secretary: Nicholas Laviola (631) 678-7866

Board of Directors

Annette Brownell (631) 665-4405

Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059

Vera Capogna (516) 639-5430

Steve D'Amato (631) 264-8413

Amy Duryea (516) 642-4261

Jack Isaacs (631) 567-7631

Nicholas Laviola (631) 678-7866

Michael Maraviglia (631) 338-0549

Peggy Marsh (631) 667-3556

Tim Meyer (631) 346-0198

Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731

Committee Chairs

Hospitality: Audrey Collins

Conservation:

Michael Maraviglia (631) 338-0549

Membership: Rosemary Camilleri

Publicity: Helga Merryman (631) 669-6473

Education: Juliane Wohler, Janet Gremli,
Jack Finkenberg

Audubon Activist: Open

Newsletter: Vera Capogna (631) 563-4969

Nature Walks: Ken Thompson (631) 612-8028

Programs: Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059

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:
Helga Merryman

GSBAS Direct Phone Number (631) 563-7716

GSBAS email address: info@gsbas.org

**For wildlife in need of rescue please call The STAR
Foundation (631) 736-8207**

Great South Bay Audubon Society Membership

Become a member of Great South Bay Audubon Society. Your contribution will support GSBAS conservation efforts, educational programs and our stewardship at Brookside County Park.

Please make checks payable to:

"Great South Bay Audubon Society" and mail to:

GSBAS, P.O. Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782

- New Membership \$20 New Membership Senior (62+) \$15
 Renewal \$20 Renewal Senior (62+) \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Directions to Brookside County Park

59 Brook St, Sayville 11782

The park is located on the north side of Brook St., just east of, and diagonally across from Sayville High School. Look for the large white sign that says "Brookside County Park".

From the West and East via Sunrise

Hwy: Sunrise Highway to Locust Ave.

South, to Montauk Highway. Make a

left onto Montauk Highway. Then a

quick left onto Brook Street. (traffic

light). Continue 2 miles, just past

Sayville High School. The entrance to

the park is on the left (north side of street). Look for the "Brookside

County Park" sign. You may park in the high school parking lot

and walk across the street to the park.



Great South Bay Audubon Society
PO Box 267, Sayville, NY 11782
A Chapter of National Audubon



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