



The Sandpiper

Great South Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Eco-Focus: The Bird-Glass Collision Threat Are Your Windows Bird-Safe?

by Gail Marquardt Black

Glass collisions are a major danger for birds as they fly past buildings of all kinds. With their small size and speed of flight, birds are vulnerable to fatal injury or immediate death through impact with glass. It's been estimated that the number of birds killed by glass strikes in the US annually totals up to one billion. Over 250 bird species have been documented as glass collision victims, affecting not only common but rare bird species; numerous victims are songbirds, whose numbers are already in decline.

What makes glass such a threat to birdlife? Unfortunately, birds are unable to visualize glass as a solid barrier due to both the reflective and transparent properties that glass has. Under the right conditions (viewing angle, light level, time of day, weather) glass can reflect vegetative habitat, water and food sources, or sky and clouds, causing birds to fly into its reflected surface; mirrored glass facades found on high rise buildings—reflective all day long—cause high count bird kills. Glass transparency can lure birds to try and access visible building interiors for foliage, food, water, atrium environments, false openings to vegetation and sky seen through adjacent windows, or black-hole illusions, which can result in disastrous consequences. Building size, siting and design are other factors that influence bird-glass strikes.

The protection of birds in our contemporary glass structured environment is an essential requirement in order to preserve our fragile ecosystem. Birds are needed to perform many vital ecological functions; they play a critical role in both insect and rodent control, as well as support healthy habitats through plant pollination and seed dispersal. Currently, bird mortality patterns for glass collisions are being documented by concerned conservation groups at many city municipal and commercial buildings. However, any building structure with glass—no matter how small the surface—can pose a strike threat for birds. Residential glass bird strikes may not be readily observed by us, but they are commonly happening, nonetheless, any time of day or season, and with increasing frequency during migrations. Almost 50% of bird collision mortalities happen at home windows, especially those near the vicinity of bird feeders. Over half of birds that fly away after a glass collision will die or become easy prey for predators.

Ornithological studies have shown that window strikes by birds can be greatly reduced or even eliminated by making windows visible to birds. Visual cues or markers will alert birds to the presence of glass provided spacing is located no more than 4" apart vertically or 2" horizontally over the



The wood thrush, a near threatened species, is often a glass-collision victim.

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, January 18th

Rich LaBella

Capturing Long Island through Photography

Rich is a nature photographer who enjoys photographing nautical themes such as shorelines, ocean and bays, wetlands, wildlife, flowers and unique things that make living on Long Island a special experience. His presentation will be on the composition of these elements and will provide helpful photography tips.

Thursday, February 15

Joe Guinta

Sparrow Identification & Appreciation

Joe will give a presentation on sparrow identification focusing on the species that can be seen in our area. He will discuss their habits and the best times and locations to spot these birds. Identifying sparrows will be much easier with Joe's tips and tricks. Joe has traveled extensively and has led birding groups to Texas, California, Costa Rica, Belize and Panama among other places. Joe's presentation will give you a new appreciation of the beauty of sparrows.

Saturday, January 13

Connetquot Breakfast & Birding

See page 3 for more information

continued on page 6

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

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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

It is a dark and windy night as I sit down to share with you the things the Board of Directors has been up to in the last few months. With Thanksgiving in the air, it is natural to be thinking a little bit extra about the things we are thankful for. As I type, I am thankful for the beautiful long haired black cat sitting on my lap. Only a few short years ago, she was a rescue off the beach. I'm grateful – and I think she is, as are the shorebirds – that she is now a forever indoor cat. It makes me consider a lot of opportunities we have that can change our environmental world—one cat or turtle or tree at a time. It also reminds me of the huge need for education.

Just today I was showing off my shorebird painting from our paint class and a woman said something to me about wishing they would all die. Certainly, I misunderstood I thought, so I asked her what she meant. She went on to tell me, with distain in her voice, how no one can go on the beach when they are nesting. I explained to her that the nesting area is very fragile and limited. Her response was: "Do we really need sandpipers?" Oh boy, do we need education *and* understanding!

We have now hosted three successful general meetings at Seatuck Foundation in Islip. GSBAS was also just the host of the Long Island Audubon Conference, which also was held at Seatuck and attended by nearly 30 people representing the seven chapters on Long Island. There were a lot of good ideas and information shared by everyone.

In case you have not heard the terrific news, Jody Banaszak, a board member with a super team spirit, took up the reins in October to fill the position of president. Right on the heels of that, Jody and I had the opportunity to attend the New York Audubon Council meeting in Seneca Falls. It was a very informative, proactive and positive conference that brought us back just brimming with ideas and vision. We are looking forward to creating and joining in on proactive activities to educate people and enhance our Long Island environment. Please read Jody's article on page four and consider where you might fit in!

Invasion by Harry Anderson

Not all non-native birds are invasive. Many will never be. A number of years ago, in mid-December, I spotted an expensive Amazon Parrot on a back road in Heckscher Park perched on a tree branch. It was spotted again on a median, but it never survived the winter, let alone lived to breed in the wild.

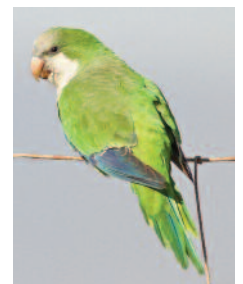
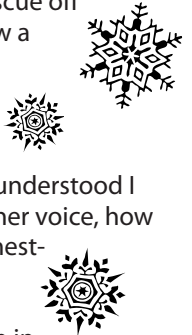
But we do have our share of non-native birds here on the Island that indeed have become invasive. The list includes Monk Parakeets, the European Starling, the House Sparrow, the Rock Pigeon, and the ubiquitous Mute Swan and Canada Goose. The House Sparrow, the European Starling and the feral pigeon are not federally protected, but that has not exactly kept their numbers down.

Birds get where they were never intended to be for several reasons. In some cases it is caused by geographical expansion due to habitat and climate change. Some got to be here by accidentally escaping, but many were deliberately imported. In 1890 a German immigrant named Eugene Schiedffelin, thought it would a good thing to introduced all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare, 55 of them, into the United States. He did manage to give us the European Starling when he introduced 60 into Central Park. It is estimated that their numbers now exceed 200 million. In 1850, 100 English House Sparrows were released in Manhattan to eat the snow-white Linden Moth that were defoliating fruit trees and elms. Since then they have seriously varied their diet to include your bird feeder seed and large farm crops.

The presence of invasive non-native species is not benign. They can be a source of additional predation. They compete with native species for food, they can be a source of new diseases, and they can be responsible for hybridization. Monk Parakeets even managed to knock out power in one area when the heat of their nest overwhelmed a transformer.

Say what you will, but our non-native species are persistent. We have a healthy population of Mute Swans, House Sparrows and European Starlings that can roost by the thousands. Once in a southwest city park, so many starlings nested in the trees that the noise drove people out. The city council decided to set up hundreds of flash bulbs. The theory was that when they exploded into blinding light all at once, it would scare the birds into leaving. When the flock roosted for the night, all the flash bulbs were fired. The birds didn't move. What they did do, however, was to get so startled that they covered the park with droppings. The starlings never cleared out, but the city sure had a mess to clean up.

Face it, non-native birds, invasive or not, are going to be with us until the end, whenever that is.



Monk Parakeet

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.

Louise Titus Memorial Tuesday Walks Will Resume in May

Weekend Nature Walks

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.

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.

Saturday February 3, 8:30 am, Jones Beach West End • Leaders: Mike Cooper (516-523-2369, Bob Grover (516-318-8536) Meet in the parking lot near the Coast Guard Station at West End.

Saturday March 3, 8:30, 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.

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. 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.

Importance of Native Planting Discussed at Nov. General Membership Meeting

What is all the hub-bub about native plants these days? Native plants work well with the area wildlife to supply food and shelter, attract insects that native species eat, or produce the nectar that native wildlife or pollinators desire. Native plants and wildlife coexist in a balance that is upset by non-native plants or insects that do not have enough natural enemies to keep them in check. In this issue, we will look at the best native trees and shrubs for our area. This is not the complete list by any means, but a good place to start getting ideas. Our thanks go to **Joy Cirigliano**, our November speaker, for sharing this extensive information with us.



Cedar Waxwings are attracted to the berries of the American Red Cedar Tree.

North American Oaks— grow to 40-80 feet at maturity, which can take decades. Oaks have attractive bark and lobed leaves. They are the #1 wildlife tree in the Northeast. Spring bloom time coincides with warbler migration. The hungry birds keep caterpillars in check. Acorns provide birds and wildlife food. The leaves keep the soil acid.

Black, Pin, Choke Cherry— Black Cherry is a slow grower to 40-60 feet; Pin Cherry grows quickly but is not long lived (20-30 years). Choke Cherry is small (16 feet). All produce spring flowers which pollinators nectar on and small cherries that birds eat in summertime. Birds and other animals eat the caterpillars.

Grey, Black, River Birch— medium height trees attractive when

planted in groups. They have serrated leaves and attractive bark. They provide caterpillars and seed enjoyed by chickadees, redpolls and other small songbirds.

American Beech— slow growing to 50-80 feet. Smooth silvery bark and branches that start low to the ground. They provide caterpillars and nuts that attract many types of wildlife.

White Spruce— pyramidal shaped evergreen, moderate height. The cones produce seeds for many species of birds and wildlife. It is good shelter, protection and nesting areas. It provides insects in the summer and winter.

Winterberry Holly, Inkberry— Winterberry Holly is a large shrub or small tree that drops its leaves in fall. Birds enjoy the red berries all winter. Favorite of waxwings and robins. Inkberry is an evergreen that provides shelter year-round. Birds will eat it when other food is scarce. Nectar source for pollinators and protein source from insects.

Dogwoods— small trees that have flowers that attract pollinators in the spring and berries in the fall for birds and wildlife.

American Red Cedar 40 – 60 ft with evergreen scales and short needles. Female produces juicy berry-like cones that waxwings and other wildlife love. Excellent cover and nesting site.

Blueberries - Highbush (6 – 10 feet) and Lowbush (2 feet)- White bell flowers for pollinators and wonderful summer fruit.

CHAPTER NEWS

'Hello' from Jody Banaszak, Great South Bay Audubon's President

Hello my little birding friends! I have been nominated to be the new president of Great South Bay Audubon Society. I am honored by this and am looking forward to be officially voted in at the April General Membership Meeting. For now I have plunged right into work and promise to do my best not to let Great South Bay Audubon Society down.

As a little girl, I was always fascinated with birds. Whenever I saw a bird in our yard, I would ask my father what kind it was and he would tell me. I'll never forget the first time I saw a flicker. It was such a beautiful bird. Another time my dad was outside and saw an owl in a tree on the side of the house. I climbed up on the chair in the living room and looked out the window to see the silhouette of an owl. When I think back as to the size, it had to be a screech owl. I also grew up going to Davis Park, Fire Island on our family boat, where we

crabbed, clammed and fished. Of course there were birds there too. And my whole life I called gulls seagulls, as did everyone else. It wasn't until a few years ago, when on a birding trip, that I was told the correct name was gull. Do you have any idea how hard it was to not say seagull!?!?

I've learned a lot from our nature walk leaders, and recently, the Audubon Council Meeting in Seneca Falls and the Long Island Audubon Conference that Great South Bay Audubon hosted. I would like to bring some of these ideas to our monthly meetings and to Brookside for young adults. Audubon isn't just about birds, but also conservation. I went to a talk with Annette to the Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center at Jones Beach a couple of weeks ago. It was given by The Riverhead Foundation on rescuing sea turtles and seals. It was very informative and wouldn't you know it, I had a seal in my backyard a

week later! I called the Riverhead Foundation and they came the next day. It was a one-year-old harbor seal that had been rehabilitated due to cuts on its back, at the Mystic, Connecticut Rehabilitation Center! A long way from home!

So, getting back to education... Janet Gremli and Julianne Wohler do a wonderful job with the Young Naturalists Club on the first Sunday of the month at Brookside and I'd like to expand on that. We have an adult painting class every two or three months. I would like to have a kids painting class as well.

Another thought was to have weekly events that center around a monthly theme. The weeks could build on each other or could be broken up by age.

If any of you have any ideas, thoughts, or would like to help educate children and young adults about birds and conservation, please let me know. They are our future!!

Art Class with Jody

GSBAS held their third fundraiser art class on November 18 at Brookside County Park. Eleven people attended, four of them were GSBAS members, and many were second and third time students. The subject matter was a sandpiper painted in acrylics on canvas. The supplies and reference photo were supplied for the students and step-by-step instructions were given from start to finish. Everyone did a great job, with all the paintings done in each painter's own style.

These painting classes are a lot of fun



Art students and their finished paintings. Jody makes it easy to paint and achieve impressive results as shown.

with a lot of laughs. No experience necessary. One student in this last class was a first-time painter! I look forward to the next one in February. Check the website for the date, or call 631 563-7716 for information. -Jody Banaszak

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.

May Dinner Committee

The dinner committee will begin meeting and planning in January. There can't be too many hands when it comes to collecting raffle prizes – even if you go to one favorite restaurant and get a gift certificate. If you can help, please contact Annette at 631-665-4405.

CONSERVATION TIPS

by Diane

Use Less Paper

- Sign up for e-newsletters, paper less billing and bank statements, and pay bills on-line, by phone, or with auto bill pay.
- Read newspapers, magazines, and books on-line.
- Proofread **before** you print!
- Make double-sided copies.
- Use and ask your printer/employer to use only 'Process Chlorine Free', FSC* blend paper.
- Save paper that's only used on one side for scrap paper. -Diane Ives

*Forest Stewardship Council certified - sourced from responsibly managed forests.

CHAPTER NEWS

A Few Words About Our New President

by Annette Brownell

For a few years now the position of President has been vacant. During this time, the board members have really pulled together while planning and executing regular programs, as well as some new ventures, keeping the Great South Bay Audubon Society functioning to its expected standard of excellence. A host of regular attendees have worked right alongside us.

One of our accomplishments was to invite Jody Banaszak to join our Board of Directors two years ago. Jody joined Audubon about ten years ago with the goal to enhance her knowledge of birds and learn the places to see, photograph and paint them. She has been an active member of the Butterfly Garden since its inception. An accomplished wildlife artist and a retired art teacher from Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Jody has taken classes under some well-known artists and is a teacher at Islip Arts Council.

Even before she joined the board, Jody has been dedicated and involved. She has a terrific giving spirit, fun ideas and a willingness to dedicate her time and creativity for the advancement of nature education for all ages.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, we look forward to working with her.

Autumn Nature Walks

Members of Great South Bay Audubon bid farewell to our ospreys and took advantage of the opportunity to witness the migration of warblers and many other songbirds, shorebirds and raptors during our fall nature walks. We monitored the hawks at the Robert Moses hawk watch platform, walked beaches, parks and boardwalks. Here is the report on the Caumsett State Park trip by **John Gluth**, trip leader.

Great South Bay's field trip to **Caumsett State Park** on October 21st was held under wonderful autumn weather conditions, enjoyed by all in the small group of avid birders attending.

Caumsett is a large park – 1,520 acres – so we were able to explore only a fraction of the former Marshall Field estate's picturesque landscape. But we were blessed



photo by Vera Capogna

In addition to a vast variety of birds, Caumsett State Park Preserve offers vistas of fields and meadows, gardens, woodlands, salt marshes and a rocky shoreline.

with an ample number of birds throughout, modest in comparison with some of this writer's best experiences in the park, but more than enough to captivate everyone's attention. Our efforts were concentrated around the grassland restoration area, equestrian complexes, compost piles and surrounding fields. Highlights among the 44 species seen during our travels included 1 Northern Harrier, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 4 Eastern Bluebirds, 1 Brown Thrasher, 4 American Pipits, 1 White-crowned Sparrow and 11 Eastern Meadowlarks. Non-avian highlights included the curious horses in the outlying corrals who came over looking for handouts.

Caumsett is a special place and well worth the trip to the north shore, for the birding or other outdoor activities. This writer very much looks forward to his one to two annual visits, and hopes to see more participants on next year's field trip.

Talking Turkey with the Young Naturalist Club

by Janet Gremli

Despite the overcast and drizzle, Young Naturalist members came to spend the afternoon at Brookside County Park on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Everett and his sister, Scarlet, both rather knowledgeable birders, were in attendance. At 13 years old, Everett has acquired an extensive repertoire of birding skills through both self education and first hand experience. Everett has traveled to many local parks and nature preserves in addition to

several states throughout the United States, all while honing his skills regarding look-alike species, subspecies and other important details for a serious birder to know. Birds darting from feed-



Everett learning to chart the weekly bird sightings in the Brookside log book.

ers to tree cover were identified at rapid fire speed as Everett helped YIN members to observe the avian activities from the comforts of the meeting room. The Brookside County Park Weekly Bird list was updated as the birds were identified. Reference books from the Brookside Library were used to help others see the details needed to distinguish one species of sparrow from another. Other members sketched and colored pictures of local backyard birds. A short walk through the park yielded sightings of mallards, Canada Geese and a Great Blue Heron. Still on Everett's Life List...to observe a Fox Sparrow in New York State!

MEMBER'S CORNER

Twofold Volunteering: Helping People *and* the Environment

by Tim Meyer

When my wife and I decided to volunteer at the local food share we had no idea the impact it would have on us. We started slow by just unloading produce from trucks and cars for distribution. Soon thereafter we graduated to picking up food at our local Trader Joes for others to unload and distribute. Along the way we found out how many people were in need. It was heartbreaking and uplifting experience all in one evening witnessing people volunteering together from all social and economic classes for the common good of others. And there were many others: women with children, elderly and the infirm. Karen and I were stunned at the need. The surprising part we had no idea about was the impact on the environment we were a part of.



Tim and Karen Meyer with a car full of food to be distributed to the needy.

after learning about the environmental impact. Who knew?

For more information visit communitysolidarity.org.

*statistics provided by communitysolidarity.org

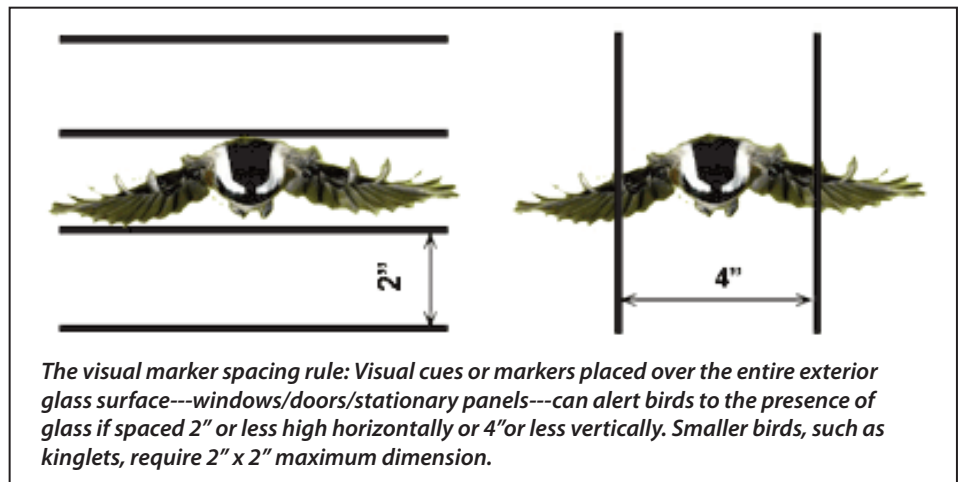
I've come across some articles in the media lately about the importance of not wasting food. Imagine the impact of fifty two hundred pounds of food a week feeding hungry people rather than ending up in landfills? The impact is staggering. Food waste is one of the biggest contributors to global warming. Decomposing food creates large amounts of CO2 and methane which are warming the planet! In 2016, Community Solidarity rescued over 4.1 million pounds of healthy groceries from the trash. By doing so, over 3,766,269 pounds of CO2 were prevented from entering the atmosphere.*

Unfortunately, after eighteen months of volunteering, Karen and I said farewell--but not good bye. I will be retiring from my job in a few years and will be back out on the road to help out again, especially

The Bird-Glass Collision Threat *continued from Page 1*

exterior window surface (the 2" x 4" spacing rule). For smaller birds (such as hummingbirds, creepers and kinglets), markers should be spaced 2 x 2". Visual markers should be applied on the exterior glass surface to disrupt reflection, should be at least 1/4" wide and should stand out in contrast to the glass under varying weather conditions. Patterns can be linear, dotted or varied designs.

Evaluating and targeting specific residential problem glass areas (picture windows, stationary glass panels or doors, areas near bird feeders or high bird activity, corner windows, highly reflective glass) is a first step in increasing bird safety. With the 2" x 4" spacing rule in mind, simple and inexpensive bird-friendly innovations can be implemented: window patterns in tempera paint, soap or erasable marker (grid or design); bird window screens; prefabricated decals; netting or curtains; film or tape. Use of interior window blinds, interior curtains or interior shades do not reduce dangerous exterior glass reflection but can reduce transparency danger. Awnings, shutters, false mullions and unwashed windows may help in certain instances. Contrary to popular



belief, a raptor silhouette decal will not deter glass strikes by birds. See: www.allaboutbirds.org "Why Birds Hit Windows and How You Can Help Prevent It", Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has evaluated many bird-friendly products that can aid in glass strike protection. These include "Homeowner Products" such as Acopian BirdSavers (zen curtains), Solyx Bird Safety film, Col-lidescope, ABC BirdTape, as well as "Architectural Products" for new building design use or remodeling such as

Bendheim Channell Glass, GlasPro Bird Safe Glass, Viracon-Fritted Glass. Complete listing and product descriptions at: www.abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/

At the present time, limited legislation and ordinances--in some cities and a few states--as well as a number of professional guidelines addressing bird-friendly building design have been established. However, until national legislation is enacted the bird-glass collision problem will only continue to escalate.



BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Compiled by Helga Merryman

November 2017



Some of the birds that are common today were unusual to see at our feeders 50 yrs. ago. There may be more than one contributing factor why a particular species increases or decreases its range. We rarely saw a Cardinal at our feeders in the early sixties. Belief is that Cardinals expanded their range because of increased public interest in feeding birds and also their ability to double or triple brood in a single season. I saw my first Northern Mockingbird on Long Island in 1963; it was a rare sight. Climate change bringing warmer temperatures has encouraged Mockingbirds to expand their range, (actually I think they're seeking a larger audience for their all night summer serenades, ask any light sleeper). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were hardly seen in our area in the eighties but now are a common sight and sound on any walk in the woods, or even at our backyard feeders. The Red-bellied has boosted its nesting success because it is more aggressive toward Starlings and other competitors for nesting sites. It may also be filling a void left by the decreasing Red-headed Woodpecker.

We have started this fall's survey with seven participants from six areas: Babylon, Bayport, Deer Park, Ridge, West Islip and West Sayville. Thank you to everyone who participated and I look forward to all newcomers. For information on joining the survey, please refer to the September/October or November/December issues of *The Sandpiper*.

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 _____

Survey Data: Period from November 1-15

Red-tailed Hawk 0	Northern Flicker 0	Brown Thrasher 0	Brown-headed Cowbird 5
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Blue Jay 34	European Starling 218+	House Finch 32
Cooper's Hawk 1	American Crow 18	Towhee 0	American Goldfinch 3
Rock Pigeon 0	Black-capped Chickadee 19	Fox Sparrow 2	House Sparrow 100+
Mourning Dove 52	Tufted Titmouse 9	Song Sparrow 7	
Monk Parakeet 0	Red-breasted Nuthatch 0	White-throated Sparrow 12	OTHER SPECIES
Red-bellied Woodpecker 8	White-breasted Nuthatch 3	Dark-eyed Junco 22	Golden-crowned Kinglet 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 0	Carolina Wren 10	Northern Cardinal 16	Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
Downy Woodpecker 11	American Robin 6	Red-winged Blackbird 7	
Hairy Woodpecker 3	Northern Mockingbird 7	Common Grackle 312+	

Great South Bay Audubon Society

Officers

Interim President: Jody Banaszak (631) 278-4059
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

Vera Capogna (516) 639-5430

Steve D'Amato (631) 264-8413

Amy Duryea (516) 642-4261

Jack Isaacs (631) 567-7631

Michael Maraviglia (631) 338-0549

Peggy Marsh (631) 667-3556

Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731

Committee Chairs

Hospitality: Audrey Collins

Conservation:

Michael Maraviglia (631) 338-0549

Membership: Juliane Wohler (631) 581-1731

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 website: GSBAS.org

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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