VOLUME 33, NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 13, 2003
TIME: 8:00 P.M. 🕒
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKER: Michael Unold
TOPIC: A Natural Perspective

New York City Audubon Society member Michael Unold, who has led local trips for the NYC Sierra Club Photography Committee, has been capturing nature images since 1989. His entertaining and informative program will consist of about 80 slides, mostly of East Coast birds, with a sprinkling of whales, other mammal images, and landscapes. Many of his photos are at www.michaelunold.com. Spend two hours with us at our last monthly meeting till September!

Pre-Meeting Bird ID Class at 7:30. Arrive early at our general meetings and join Scott Oglesby as he helps us expand our birding horizons.

Parking Advisory. The municipal parking lot behind the library will be closed for a few weeks while the Village of Freeport improves it, adding eight sorely needed parking spaces. If it’s closed on our meeting night, the library has made the following arrangements with two neighbors (the other neighbors love tow trucks): Compare Foods will allow the use of their lot facing South Ocean Avenue, just south of Merrick Road (please do not park by the store), and HSBC will allow the use of their rear lot on Long Beach Avenue (one block west of the library), just south of Merrick Road (please do not park by the bank). There is also a municipal lot on South Ocean Avenue, just north of Our Holy Redeemer Church (near Sunrise Highway).

******************** IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE bring coffee mugs to our meetings. Shadegrown coffee protects rainforests! ********************

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS AND RAFFLE ITEMS

Enid Klein has agreed to take over as SSAS’s programs chairperson. She’d appreciate suggestions for guest speakers at our general meetings; please call her at 561-0004 if you have anyone to recommend.

In addition to prizes for the Birdathon (see Jim’s article), we’re looking for raffle items for our annual dinner. Any businesses that donate items (gift certificates, etc.) will be acknowledged in the next Skimmer, so we hope that you’ll approach them on SSAS’s behalf or donate something. Our annual dues share from NAS has been halved (down to $2.75 per member, with zilch for all renewals and all new NAS-recruited members) and is expected to vanish in July 2004 when the “safety net” sinks. Please call George Peters at 868-5480 if you have raffle items.

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

HICKS AND BROOKSIDE VOLUNTEERS

SSAS thanks the members who greeted the public at our table at the Hicks Nurseries’ Spring Flower & Garden Show on March 22 & 23: Alice Blaustein, Betty Borowsky, Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Chris Schmitt, Michael Sperling, and John Zarudsky.

We also thank the members who spent the afternoon of April 6 cleaning up and pruning Brookside Preserve (the county-owned preserve in Freeport/Baldwin that SSAS manages): Betty Borowsky, Susan Brychcy, Betsy Gulotta, Larry & Marianne Gumbs, Charlie Kief, Therese Lucas, Christine Marzigliano with grandchildren Alexis & Louis Duffy, Wendy Murbach, George Peters, Doris Pirodsky, Laurie Raisher, Chris Schmitt, Michael Sperling, John Zarudsky, and anyone your editor may have omitted (please let me know).
DIVIDED HOUSE APPROVES ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DRILLING
Michael Saperling

On April 11, the U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 6, its energy omnibus bill, which includes opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. The U.S. Senate will act next.

On the previous day, an amendment to remove the ANWR drilling provision from the bill, introduced by Representative Edward Markey (D-Massachusetts), was defeated 197–228. Republicans voted 29–194 against the amendment, Democrats voted 167–34 in favor of it, and one independent Congressman voted in favor. SSAS’s Peter King voted against; our Carolyn McCarthy voted in favor.

The final bill was approved 247–175. Republicans voted 207–17 for it, Democrats voted 40–157 against it, and the independent Rep voted against it. Peter King voted aye; Carolyn McCarthy voted nay.

BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. We’ll return to Jones Beach in autumn. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Apr. 27  Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
May 4  Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 11  Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
May 18  Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 25  Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk
June 1 & 8  Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) Summer Break
Aug. 10  Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 17  Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Aug. 24  Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 31  Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
Sep. 7  Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS & BABY BIRDS

George Peters compiled the following list of organizations and individuals who offer assistance in bird and other wildlife rescue:

Volunteers for Wildlife: (631) 423-0982
SSAS’s Annie McIntyre: 379-2206
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary: 922-3200 (normal business hours only)
Nassau Animal Emergency Group: 333-6262 (M–Th 8 P.M. to 8 A.M., Fri. 7 P.M. to 8 A.M., Sat. 1 P.M. to Mon. 8 A.M.)
Hempstead Bay Constable: 897-4100 (8 A.M. to midnight; assistance depends on available staff)

What to Do if You’ve Found a Baby Bird. The following was given to me by Dolores Rogers and comes from the Ocean Impact Foundation’s Marine-Wildlife Care Center in West Palm Beach, Florida.

There are three vital things to remember concerning songbirds. First, take responsibility for your cat. Second, do not move fledglings. Third, allow nature to take its course.

Domestic and feral cats kill thousands of songbirds annually. Keep your cat confined at all times. If this is not possible, supervise your pet when it is allowed outdoors. You can help by putting a bell on your cat’s collar — giving birds a chance to escape.

Newly feathered baby birds (fledglings) leave the nest before they are able to fly. Parent birds, with many babies, could easily lose track of any of the babies temporarily. From a distance, observe the fledglings and you will see the parents return to feed them. Fledglings depend on their parents to recognize enemies, find food, and survive in their surroundings.

If you find a featherless baby bird (nestling), place it back in the nest. The nestling will not be rejected by the parents. If the nest falls apart, place the remains of it in a shallow margarine tub with holes poked in the bottom of the tub for drainage. Place the nestlings in the repaired nest and secure the nest in the same location in the tree it fell from.

Native birds are very fragile and are protected by federal law. They can only be in the possession of licensed wildlife rehabilitators. If you find an injured bird, keep it quiet and confined, and take it immediately to your local wildlife hospital. Do not try to give the bird food or water — you may hurt it rather than benefit it. Remember that there may be times when the best option is to leave nature alone and let it run its course.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT
Joe Grupp

The research committee has been recording the observations made on the Sunday SSAS bird walks since February 2002 in order to build a database of species and their numbers found at the various locations. The data below is a summary of the observations from Zach’s Bay.

Number of visits: 6
Distribution of visits: 2/10/02 to 2/9/03
Number of species: 48
Species observed 3 or more times: Herring Gull (6), Canada Goose (5), Brant (5), American Black Duck (5), Northern Harrier (5), Northern Flicker (5), Yellow-rumped Warbler (5), Peregrine Falcon (4), Rock Dove (4), Great Blue Heron (3), Black-crowned Night Heron (3), Red-breasted Merganser (3), Sanderling (3), Great Black-backed Gull (3), American Crow (3), Northern Mockingbird (3), European Starling (3), and House Finch (3).
I walked along the dock near the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station and, as I neared the east end, across from the small island, I quickly surveyed its spit with binoculars, finding only a few Brant, Great Black-backed Gulls, and Herring Gulls. It was a fairly nice day. The tide approached low and the mud-brown sand trailed off of the east side of the spit. Not being satisfied with the quick scan through the binoculars, I set up the scope. Scanning slowly, I was surprised to find a small flock of shorebirds blending in with the mud-brown sand in the background. It took a second or two to ferret out their form and markings before I realized that they were Piping Plovers (pictured). I counted the birds and got seven, then spotted two more a very short distance away, making it nine. That's a fair number of birds for a species that is listed as endangered in the Great Lakes region, and threatened in the Northern Plains region and on the Atlantic Coast. It was then that my mind wandered and the idea of writing a second column on the Endangered Species Act was born.

The Endangered Species Act defines two methods for a species to become listed as threatened or endangered. One is by the candidate assessment process. In this case, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists propose a species for listing. In the second or petition method, any interested party can submit a species for listing, along with supporting scientific information for doing so.

When a petition is received, the USFWS has 90 days to determine if the petition has merit or to reject it if it does not. If it determines that it does have merit, it has one year from the date it received the petition to review and gather information to verify or refute the need for listing. If it refutes the need for listing, it rejects the petition at that time. If in this step it is determined that the species should be listed but other species are in greater need, it is placed in a category where it will be reviewed for listing annually.

On the other hand, if the data and research support the need for listing, that fact and a program to insure the species' survival are published in the Federal Register, as are all pertinent findings in the entire process. A 60 day comment period is then opened. Three independent experts are asked for their evaluation of the proposed listing, and the public, other governmental agencies, and the scientific community have the opportunity to comment. Changes then may or may not be made to the original listing and plan, or the listing and plan may be rejected. These findings are again published in the Federal Register and if they are favorable, the species is added to the Endangered Species List, effective 30 days from when its listing is announced.

The nine Piping Plovers that I viewed through the scope may well owe their existence to the species completing the listing process and being listed in 1985, with a recovery goal for the U.S. Atlantic Coast population being set at 1600 breeding pairs. In 1986, the breeding pairs totaled only 550; in 2001, they numbered 1280. The preliminary census for 2002 indicates 1407 breeding pairs. The plovers nest on the very beaches on which we humans like to play and even drive. Without the listing process and the plover's subsequent classifications, and the resulting protection of law by federal and state agencies and a host of volunteers, I doubt that I could have seen nine Piping Plovers that day. Maybe it would not have been possible to have seen any at all.

Note: The factual information above was taken from the USFWS Web site at http://endangered.fws.gov/ and the USFWS Region 5 Web site at http://pipingplover.fws.gov/status/index.html.

YOU'RE INVITED TO SSAS'S ANNUAL DINNER!

An enjoyable evening awaits everyone at our 32nd annual dinner, which will be held at Pompeii Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead on Tuesday, June 10, starting with cocktails (open bar) and an hour of hot hors d’oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. Smoking will be prohibited, wine and soda will be unlimited, we’re planning a raffle, and our musician will be back. Pompeii is located at 401 Hempstead Ave. Take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north about 1-1/2 miles. Join your fellow South Shore members and bring your friends.

Advance registration is required; the cost is $27 per person, which also includes salad, cake, and coffee. Please mail the following form and your check, payable to South Shore Audubon Society, to: Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580-3316.

NAME: ____________________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________________
____________________________________________________

AMOUNT OF CHECK: ____________________________

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: ____________________________

NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
Chicken Marsala
Grilled Chicken
Filet of Sole
Roast Beef
Eggplant Rollatini

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MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE PLAN RELEASED

Editor's note: In December 2001, Nassau County received their contractor's suggested $3 million plan for restoring Massapequa Preserve's streams and ponds, in order to satisfy a mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Unfortunately, the plan wasn't released to the public until late March 2003 and the comment period will be over by the time many of you receive this Skimmer. The plan is hundreds of pages long and can be viewed at the Farmingdale Public Library, both branches of the Massapequa Public Library, and at the Nassau County Planning Commission's office (400 County Seat Drive, Mineola). I currently have SSAS's copy; we contributed bird species data. The plan includes adding a two-mile pipe north from Sunrise Highway along the paved path we use on our walks, in order to pump water upstream. Here's the announcement (excluding info about the preserve's boundaries and pollution from the upstream Liberty Superfund site), as published in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's weekly Environmental Notice Bulletin (http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/enb/index.html).

The Nassau County Planning Commission, as agent for Nassau County Legislature, has accepted a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Massapequa Preserve Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration. A public hearing on the Draft EIS will be held April 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Massapequa High School, 4925 Merrick Road, Massapequa, NY. The Public Comment period ends ten days after the close of public hearing.

The Massapequa Preserve is an approximately 423 acre Nassau County park and preserve located south of Bethpage State Park in the Town of Oyster Bay. This narrow parcel is fed by two branches of Massapequa Creek. The approximately 1.5 miles of creeks flow through three ponds on their way to the 20 acre Massapequa Reservoir and the 40 acre Massapequa Lake. Lowered groundwater elevations caused by the installation of sanitary sewers and increased groundwater withdrawals for public consumption have reduced stream flow, and lowered pond and lake levels. This has negatively impacted the stream corridor. To counter this, Nassau County is proposing to augment stream flow by better management of storm water, making improvements to the streams and ponds, and adding flow from the Sunrise Highway Infiltration Gallery wells. Nassau County anticipates that the proposed improvements will restore the wetlands and open water environments of the preserve for passive as well as active recreation, and improve the eventual overflow discharge to the Great South Bay.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN
Michael Sperling

Once again, it's time for your editor to thank everyone who contributed articles and info to this year's eight issues, made trips to F&B Printers in Island Park (Phyllis Gambrill, Dan Marsh, Doreen Remsen, Dolores Rogers, and my dad), brought Skimmers to the Freeport Post Office (George Peters), printed the labels (Wendy Murbach, with emergency help from Alice and Joey Blaustein), and stuck labels on Skimmers (Therese Lucas, Wendy, and Chris Schmitt). Thanks!

HECKSCHER REMINDER
Therese Lucas

South Shore Audubon Society will be celebrating Earth Day by participating in the always well-attended Heckscher Spring Festival, which will be (was?) held at Heckscher State Park in East Islip on April 26 and 27.

The festival will be at Fields 1 and 4 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Why not come down, partake in the celebration, and volunteer an hour or two of your time at the SSAS table? To volunteer, contact me at 631-225-6377 or TKLWingsIII@aol.com.

CENTRAL PARK UPDATE
Ann Marie Pozzini

We have landed an excellent second leader for our annual Central Park trip on May 3. Lloyd Spitalnik, the creator of the MetroBirds report, has offered to lead one group, while Chris Cooper will once again be leading the other. Lloyd started birding as an SSAS member and now lives in Manhattan. For the last 18 years he has considered himself a "serious birder" and his life list of 700+ birds includes every regularly seen bird in the United States!

Lloyd's specialty is identifying warblers by sight. He has promised to share with us distinctive field marks for the warblers to help us improve our identification skills.

Our trip, costing $5 payable in advance and announced in the last Skimmer, is limited to fifty SSAS members. Call me at 579-3353 to find out if there are still openings or to join a waiting list.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

FEED & SEED BARN
WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"
621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735
Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

(516) 694-2180

OUR-E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list
NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666
SSAS SIXTEENTH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its sixteenth annual Birdathon! SSAS raises funds through the Birdathon by having members get cash pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its height. Due to the decision by National Audubon to sharply decrease the amount of financial support given to chapters, the Birdathon is now one of our major sources of income. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in recent years; we hope you will continue and increase your gift of either time or pledges this year.

Mark the dates on your calendar — Friday, May 9 from 5:00 P.M. until Saturday, May 10 at 5:00 P.M. — and join one of our intrepid leaders (or go it alone, in which case you choose the turf). Rain dates will be one week later at the same times.

Please note: In the event of questionable weather, I will decide whether or not to cancel the Birdathon by 3 P.M. on Friday, May 9. If you have any uncertainty about whether it will be postponed, please call me or Doreen by then. This may save unnecessary trips. Please contact me at work (718-260-5960); yes, I will be at work in the city on Friday afternoon and will thus be joining my team "in progress" at Massapequa Preserve.

We need Birdathon prizes! As we have done in the past, we wish to make everyone who brings in at least one pledge (sponsoring yourself counts) eligible for a prize drawing to be held at our annual dinner. However, as of now we have very few prizes. If you would like to donate a prize, please contact me. What we would really like to do is give some kind of reward to everyone who takes part, but we will need suggestions or donations to do this. Please see me at meetings if you can help!

Our schedule of starting places and leaders is as follows: Friday, May 9 (5 P.M.): Meet Elliott Kutner’s team at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore (leaders will be Kenneth and Karen Wenzel); Paul Butkereit at Jones Beach’s Coast Guard Station; or Joe Grupp at Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot).

Saturday, May 10: Meet Elliott Kutner at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 8 A.M.; Paul Butkereit at the Ryan Building behind Mercy Hospital at 6 A.M.; or Jim and Doreen Remsen at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore at 5:45 A.M. Late risers can join the Grupp/Remsen team at Muttontown Preserve at about 8 A.M. (call for location) or at Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside at about 10:30 or 11 A.M. The Kutner team can be found near JBWR’s West Pond and garden throughout the day; all three teams will be at JBWR by mid-afternoon.

Please try to notify me or Doreen before the Birdathon if you plan to go with one of these groups, so they will know how many people to expect.

For interested parties, we’re also planning an informal post-Birdathon dinner on Saturday for all who would like to join (at a buffet or similar restaurant). This will be on a pay-as-you-go basis.

If you aren’t going with a team, why not try your own Birdathon? Do a variation on the usual theme of seeing as many species as you can during the count period. Use your imagination. Limit yourself to your backyard, a favorite park or preserve, or even a "couch potato" Birdathon. (For this one, you count as many bird species as you can on television during the 24 hours. Yes, people have really done it, but we suggest you make it clear to your sponsors if you decide to give it a try!)

Sponsors are the heart of the Birdathon. These are people who agree to give you 25¢, $1, or any amount for each species you see (they may also give you a flat pledge not based on number of species). Ask anyone you know, and don’t forget yourself!

Pledges are due no later than Monday, June 9 to be eligible for prizes. You can submit pledges on bird walks or mail them to me (address below). If you have questions, call me or speak to me at meetings and walks. If you need pledge forms, I can supply them. Let’s make our 2003 Birdathon special by raising more funds than ever! Good luck!

Birdathon Chairperson: James Remsen, Jr., 8 Venetian Blvd., Lindenhurst NY 11757.

SSAS Post Office Statement — South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through January and March through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

PLOVER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

John Zarudsky

The Town of Hempstead’s Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in insuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest between Point Lookout and Atlantic Beach. In New York State (which has its own endangered species program), Piping Plover is listed as endangered, Least Tern and Common Tern as threatened, and Black Skimmer as a species of special concern.

Audubon volunteers will help prevent disturbances to nesting areas, will record the presence of plover chicks and any incidents of predation, and can give beachgoers educational literature pertaining to Piping Plovers and terns. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If you’re interested and are able to volunteer regularly, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home).
**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

*Wendy Murbach*

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 8–10 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment’s health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

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

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

Our new members since last month’s *Skimmer* are:

- East Meadow .......... Rose Squillace
- Farmingdale .......... Mr. Rudolph A. Breitkopf, Mahnaz Karim, Steven Weiss, Patricia Ziegler
- Floral Park .......... Ms. Helen Sullivan
- Freeport ............... Alexandra Butkereit, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Elkin
- Garden City .......... Ms. Henrietta Calandrino
- Glen Oaks ............. Robin Lugo
- Island Park .......... Toni Sachs
- Levittown .......... Arthur T. Mauriello, Kimberley Van Tassell
- Long Beach .......... Jack Kelly, Ms. Jessica Lohsen
- Massapequa .......... Morton Epstein, Frank & Jane Kromer
- Massapequa Park .... Deirdre Donnelly
- Plainview ............. Carole M. Dunleavy
- Point Lookout ........ Jane Campbell, Catherine Mulvey
- Rockville Centre ...... Mr. Dennis McAuley, Eileen Zurell
- Valley Stream ....... Lori L. Finn, Betti Wettan
- Wantagh ............... Bill Godigek, Henry K. Schuboltm, Mr. & Mrs. T. Whiteside
- West Hempstead ...... John Lund, Jr.
- Woodmere .............. Hershey Marcus

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**AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS** (800) 274-4201

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**OUR WEB SITE** (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

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**NOMINATIONS FOR 2003–2004 OFFICERS**

*James Remsen, Jr.*

At South Shore Audubon Society’s general meeting on May 13, officers will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee, chaired by me, has recommended the following candidates:

- **President** — George Peters
- **Vice President** — Scott Oglesby
- **Treasurer** — Laurie Raisher
- **Recording Secretary** — Christine Schmitt
- **Corresponding Secretary** — Alice Blaustein
- **Director (to June 2006)** — Doreen Remsen
- **Director (to June 2006)** — Michael Sperling

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**ACCOUNTANT WANTED**

SSAS is looking for someone who is willing to handle our annual statement and tax forms pro bono or for a modest fee. We’re an all-volunteer chapter that doesn’t own any property or have substantial income, so there’s not much work involved. We can put your business card in every *Skimmer* as compensation; we print about 1800 copies per issue. If you’re interested or know someone who is, please contact Michael Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings) or mssperling@compuserve.com.

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**Explore the coast with the AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY**

**ASSATEAQUE SPRING WEEKEND** (May 8–11). Enjoy a wildlife bonanza on the Virginia coast. Hike trails of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore during peak spring bird migration. See nesting eagles, osprey, and hawks; migrating herons and shorebirds; butterflies; deer; turtles; snakes; and Chincoteague ponies. Cost: $295 covers three nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guides, lectures, boat tour, and seafood buffet on Sat. night.

**FIRE ISLAND SUNKEN FOREST** (May 18). Hike the mile-long boardwalk during peak spring bird migration. Learn about the ecology, wildlife, and unique flora. Bring lunch and binoculars. Cost: $20 includes ferry from Sayville.

**JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE** (May 31). Leave Sheephead Bay at 5 p.m. on the "Dorothy B VII" for a three-hour narrated tour. Learn about the history, wildlife, and ecology of the 9,000 acre wildlife refuge. Cost: $35 incl. wine, snacks.

**MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND** (June 6–8). Visit Montauk during peak orchid & heather blossom. Cost: $295 includes 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, star watch, and free LIRR pickup.

**FREE HORSESHOE CRAB WALKS AT JAMAICA BAY.**

For information and free field trip brochure, call/whse. Don Riepe, (718) 634-6407, donriepe@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsony.org
SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

The Research Committee is conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS geographical area and to make some estimates as to their numbers. We request input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this program, we would greatly appreciate it.

To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper to the table and submit the additional recordings in the same manner. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Double-sided survey sheets are available at SSAS events.

Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

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Submitted by: ____________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone number: __________________________

Please send to: Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson  
660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553  
or  
E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com
2002-2003 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

George Peters, President...................................... 868-5480
Scott Oglesby, Vice President................................ 798-4871
Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer.............................. 378-4025
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secy. & Educ.................. 887-7713
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary..................... 221-1870
Lou Paolillo, Director (6/05).................................. 766-4285
Ann Marie Pozzini, Dir. (6/05) & Special Trips.............. 579-3353
Enid Klein, Director (6/04) & Programs......................... 561-0004
Nancy Frame, Director (6/03)................................ 520-9016
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Sandy Brenner, Publicity........................................ 249-4919
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Michele DeCaprio, Youth Representative....................... 707-7698
Joseph Grupp, Research......................................... 481-4208
Betsy Golotta, Brookside Preserve.............................. 546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising..................................... 536-9166
Elliott Kutter, Birding / Field Trips.......................... 486-7667
Theresa Lucas, Environmental Festivals........................ 631-225-6377
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media......................... 379-2206
Wendy Murbach, Membership................................... 546-6303
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon...................................... 764-5168
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon (pager)......................... 517-7538
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