

logging and development in 58.5 million acres of national forest. Audubon is calling on Americans who care about the environment to let the Administration know how they feel during the public comment period ending September 14. They can take action at www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/summary.asp?subject=336.

“The implementation of the Roadless Rule had more Americans commenting on it and supporting it than any other federal rule in U.S. history. Yet, the administration has ignored the public’s clearly expressed desire to protect the last untouched areas of our national forests,” said Bob Perciasepe, Audubon’s chief operating officer. “We urge those Americans who care about the fate of our nation’s forests to once again let the government know how you feel during this public comment period.”

For more information, please visit www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/Take_Action_Roadless.html.

Editor’s note: You can write to Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth at: Content Analysis Team — Roadless State Petitions, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122, or you can send e-mail using the capitolconnect.com page above.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM ON INVASIVE AND NATIVE PLANTS

In cooperation with the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Long Island Nursery/Landscape Association, and Nassau County, the Garden City Bird Sanctuary is presenting a half-day educational field program on Friday, **September 17**, from 1–5 P.M.

Tammi Yeh of the Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide an informative discussion on “Control of Exotic

Invasive Species” and additional talks will be on the “Use of Native Plants for Landscaping.” Along with slide presentations, there will be active field demonstrations on identification and removal techniques for some of the



invasives that are spreading throughout much of the country and causing significant declines in the variety and numbers of local native plants, shrubs, and trees. You’ll also get an opportunity to see some of the attractive native plants that have been added to the Bird Sanctuary to help attract and sustain wildlife.

The Nassau County Parks Department is providing a podium, and a tent will be erected, so that the event can take place even if it’s not fair weather. Registration is free, but preregistration is required. To reserve a spot, contact Rob Alvey, GCBS President, at 326-1720.

The Garden City Bird Sanctuary is a nine-acre Nassau County stormwater storage basin that was converted into a community nature preserve a decade ago, with the cooperation of SSAS. It is located at the intersection of Tanners Pond Road and Colonial Avenue.

DINNER OPTIONS

Therese Lucas

What would you like with dinner? Soup? Salad? Fruit compote? For a change, how about a Chinese auction, a 50–50 drawing, or a silent auction? These choices were presented to attendees of the South Shore Audubon Society annual dinner held June 9, 2004.

In the 50–50 drawing, the winner split the pot with the chapter. Among the silent auction items were binoculars, photographs, and books. The Chinese auction featured something for everyone: auto service, toys, tickets to professional sporting events, online gift certificates, assorted gift baskets, and more. We plan to expand these auctions next year.

A good time was had by all. Weren’t there? Join us in June 2005!

SSAS thanks all of our drawing and auction participants and, especially, the members who provided auction items and Birdathon prizes for the dinner (please contact editor Michael Sperling if your name’s been omitted): Kathy Asmus, Vinnie Drzewucki, Bill Herzog, Enid Klein, Therese Lucas, George & Marianne Peters, the late Sally Popkin, Marcia Specht, Shirley Sternberg, and Judy Wolosoff. We also thank the businesses that made auction donations, who were acknowledged in the dinner program produced by Lou Paolillo:

Abby’s Parkside Nursery & Florist, Wantagh

Atlantic Nursery & Garden Shop, Freeport

Avis Lube, Farmingdale and elsewhere

B.A.C. Wines & Liquors, Bellmore

Beautiful Baskets by Kathy, Middle Island

Bella Fortuna Ristorante, Farmingdale

Bella Napoli Restaurant, Farmingdale

Berger Brothers Camera & Video, Amityville

Eden’s Way Natural Foods, Massapequa

Four Star Variety, Farmingdale

Hicks Nurseries, Westbury

Java Room, Farmingdale

John S. Brokos / Images for Decor, Merrick

Kings Supermarkets, Garden City & Merrick

Library Cafe, Farmingdale

Long Island Ducks, Central Islip

Marjé Salon, Merrick

Possibilities Unlimited, Bellmore

Starkie Brothers Garden Center, Farmingdale

Tabletools.com

UncommonGoods.com

Wooden Heart / The Olde Towne Garden, Wantagh

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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 7:30-9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks 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.

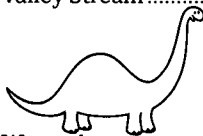
You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Atlantic Beach J. R. Cohen
- Baldwin Blanche Abram, Joseph Alt, Frederick Crippen, Mrs. Antoinette M. Daab, Lisa Dockendorff, Diana Fiskcers, Michael Gagliardi, Katherine Luger, Jill Martinez, Norman McDermott, Sharon Rubin
- 
- Bay Shore Flora Allen
- Bellmore Grace Alphin, Neil Arak, Ann Cintino, Ted Hawley, Patricia Lent, Gail Loetman, Joseph N. Piller, Ina Silverstein, George Stellweg, Carol Vernet
- 
- Bethpage David R. Bluth, Edward R. Busse, Marianne Donohue, Frank Ferris, Clifford Franklin, Kitty Izzo, Maybelle Klimaszewski, John Oest, Robert W. Schmitt, David Talley, Dennis Varley, Elayne Zink
- 
- Cedarhurst Kathy Rumpelt
- East Meadow Elva Applewhaite, Richard W. Gouveia, Frank Locascio, Sophie Olshin
- Elmont Emile Chang, Flory Joy, Marcia Lohar, Ms. Lisa Lite Rottmann
- Farmingdale Delia Barreto, Mary Bozzello, Lisa Kennedy, Marie A. Knabbe, Lauren Kopyta, William Laky, Therese O'Brien, David L. Perdrie, Christine Salita, James P. Vafeas, William Wagner
- 
- Floral Park Laura Gilbert, William McDonald, Albertine Westervelt
- Franklin Square Andrew Colombo, Jean Conlin, Alberta Erickson, Lillian A. Lulewich, Marian Petrone, Mary A. Ruschin, John Scott

- Freeport Lony Edelman, Charles Jackson, Michael & Marilyn Margolis, Christiana Otto, Steven Toomer
- Garden City Arthur & Susan Albro, Gladys Clemmensen, Edward & Phyllis Cookson, Pat DiComo, Janet Fecht, F. Molfetta
- Glen Oaks Mr. William W. Abramowitz, Karen Graff
- Hempstead Michelle Heller, James Lettieri, Eugenia Leussis, Kaitlin A. Nash, Laura Pellechia, Maureen & Arthur Sullivan, Sara Walsh, Allan G. Young
- Hewlett Larry Robins
- Hicksville Barbara Bruckner, R. L. Dagna, Ms. S. Feldberg, Joyce Glass, Martha E. Harris, V. Kostolni, Maria Logatto, Ms. Donna L. Naggy, Aurelia Stephan
- Inwood Victor Lensu, Annette Thompson
- Island Park Charlotte Hunt, Janet Moser, Thomas Stapleton, R. Tagliagambe, Irwin Weiss
- Lawrence Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Hyams, Mr. Gregg N. White
- Levittown Jessie Collins, Mary Eagan, Mr. Edward H. Grant, Barbara Lazarus, Raymond Le Van, Janice M. Littell, Kathleen M. Martens, Thomas McLaughlin, Simon Star
- 
- Lido Beach Gloria Bourger, Rose Honig
- Long Beach Arlene Brown, John Dewinta, Marie DiFilippi, Antoinette Foster, Ms. Phyllis Freed, Saul & Carol Gold, Paul Joseph, Marilyn Lesser, Mark Marshak, Vincent McDonald, Noel E. Miller, John E. Monks, Julie Nissenbaum, Douglas Sheer, Alan Thommasson, Rose Weinstein, Amanda Weir, Irvin F. Witcosky
- 
- Lynbrook Carol J. DeNoble, Lew McCurdy, Bernard Sherman, Helene Sloan, Arlene Smillie, Chris Taylor
- Malverne Marilyn Zollo
- Massapequa Harriett Baldwin, Earl J. Beckwith, Miriam Brown, Arthur Del Re, Joel W. Drabkin, Mary Drapeau, Esther Ecklund, Irving Hamberger, Emil Johnsen, Gary Kusen, Anna Marcotrigiano, Bob Mullin, Robert E. Ribbe, Mary Rice, Philip Ronkin, Michael Snow, Selma H. Tanner, Harold G. Taylor, R. Vollmer
- Massapequa Park Marilyn Cassano, Elaine Friedman, Adam Frino, William Heinrich, Jessica Jacobson, John & Katherine Lallier, Pesce Family
- Merrick Helen F. & Robert J. Elkin, Mario Felicione, Florence Hettinger, Marlene J. Hogan, Linda T. Nudelman, Mary Ulrich, Simon Wolkenbrod
- 

- Oceanside D. Dods, Laura Francoeur, Beverly Matthews, Vincent Pappalande, Andrea Salcedo, Jinny Yuan
- Old Bethpage Martha Feder, Rose Hennigar
- Plainview Sheldon Kalmowitz, Margaret Luciani, Martin Raphael, Ellen Rittberg, Albert Rosenthal
- Rockville Centre Cressie G. Carlyle, Aileen Evans, P. Labato, Melvin Pasternack, Clara Pendergast, Mary Simpson
- Roosevelt Beatrice Tettey
- Seaford Louise Beckert, Mrs. John Daniels, Robert A. Rodman, Beth A. Sluys
- Stewart Manor Joe Bazzani, Duncan Fraser, Sarah W. Hoge, Inge K. Kauders
- Uniondale James Campbell, John Claps, Emslie Folkes, Jason Hall, E. Neenan, Mr. Robert A. Proniewych
- Valley Stream Blanche Barr, Ruth Green, Rhonda & Eric Greenberg, James Lundgren, Maria L. Pisani, Daniela Pozzaglia, Helen Scala, Harry C. Seebinger, Madeline Terranova
- Wantagh Richard F. Carr; Patricia H. Emanuel; Michael A. Loeffler, Jr.; David J. Mezzardi; Patricia Riew
- West Hempstead Diane Henry, Melvin Lippe, Janet Locke, M. Lopez, Ms. Joan M. Murphy, Mim Pollock, Serena Richardson, Marylynn Thames
- Woodmere J. Goldstein, ? Langstein, Phyllis & Sidney Polsky, Janet Schneider



FAHNESTOCK UPDATE

Mary Jane Russell reports that we fell short of the minimum number of people needed to hold our October weekend reservation at Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in Putnam County. So, she's booked us for **June 4 & 5, 2005**. In addition to the cabins and Culinary Institute food, the June date will allow us to use Fahnestock's rowboats and she'll try to arrange a canoe trip at Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary on the Hudson River. Details to come.

YOUR AD HERE

SSAS publishes eight newsletters per year, with about 1800 copies per issue. Advertising helps pay for the cost of printing and mailing the *Skimmer*. A single-issue business card ad (or anything that size) costs \$30 or you can save money by paying \$200 for eight consecutive issues. Similarly, a quarter-page ad (such as that of the American Littoral Society) costs \$75 or eight for \$550. If you're interested in advertising, please e-mail *Skimmer* editor Michael Sperling at mssperling@compuserve.com or call him after 7:30 P.M. at 541-0805.

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

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

Joe Grupp

As many of you know, 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, we would greatly appreciate it.

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. 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. 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!**

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553 or e-mail Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com.

 NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

 AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201



*Explore the coast
 with the*

**AMERICAN
 LITTORAL SOCIETY**

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (Sun., Sept. 19 & 26, 4:30-7:30 P.M.). Enjoy a narrated tour of the backwater marshes of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge aboard 96' "Dorothy B VIII" out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Learn about the history & ecology of the bay and see egrets, herons, ibis, oystercatchers, shorebirds, hawks, and many more species during peak migration time. Cost: \$35 includes wine, cheese, fruit, snacks, guides. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe
ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 4-7). Visit Chincoteague Refuge & Assateague National Seashore along the Virginia coast. See thousands of snow geese, ducks, shorebirds, bald eagle, brown-headed nuthatch, clapper rails, Delmarva fox squirrel, wild ponies, and river otter. Cost: \$325 includes 3 nights at Refuge Inn, boat tour of marshes, guided hikes, evening slide programs / star watch, and Sat. evening seafood buffet. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe
HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., Dec. 4, 5-10 P.M.). Annual fun event at Floyd Bennett Field. Hike @ 3 P.M. Donation \$35 incl. all food & drink, "Ugly Auction," great door prizes, flamenco dancing.
NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACHWALK. Meet 11 A.M. at Jones Beach West End 2 parking lot. Leader: Jeff Gottlieb. Free.
MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 7-9). Our 20th year!

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, donriep@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

GLOBAL WARMING & NEW YORK SONGBIRDS

Editor's note: As I'm typing this (mid-August), there's only been one 90-degree day in our area this summer. However, the U.S. had its third warmest spring on record this year and it was the fourth warmest globally (according to the NOAA Climate Data Center). The following report is reprinted with permission from the American Bird Conservancy, whose Director of Climate Change Impact Studies, Jeff Price, Ph.D., prepared it. Copyright 2002 by American Bird Conservancy and National Wildlife Federation.

Why Care About Birds?

Birds are sources of enjoyment and public pride. Birds play an important role in communities by their aesthetic values and as sources of public pride. They provide a value to people through their very existence. Even non-birdwatchers may be thrilled to see Bald Eagles soaring overhead, and many people feel they would be deprived in some way if the birds disappeared.

Birds are important for New York's ecosystems. Birds play an important role in ecosystems by pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, and eating insects. Many bird species are predators of gypsy moths, codling moths, tent caterpillars, and eastern spruce budworms. For example, birds are known to eat up to 98% of the over-wintering codling moth larvae — an important insect pest in orchards.

Birdwatching makes a significant contribution to New York's economy. People watching and feeding wildlife (primarily birds) in New York spent approximately \$1.3 billion in 1996.

How Might Global Warming and Associated Climate Change Affect the Summer Distribution of Songbird Species in New York?

Human activity — particularly the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas — is sending tremendous additional quantities of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. The buildup of these gases is causing the planet to heat up and is altering the basic climate systems to which nature is adapted. There is growing scientific evidence that some birds and other wildlife are already responding to the changing climate.

Models have been developed that examine how summer bird distributions (climatic ranges) in NY might respond to a changing climate. Over the coming decades, there could be changes in the number of species of birds that NY residents know and love. These changes encompass both birds colonizing as well as those that may disappear from the state. Many of the species projected to disappear from the state or whose ranges might shrink are those species that feed on insect pests. Changes in the summer distributions of NY's birds are only part of the story. Sea-level rise could also adversely impact the coastal breeding, wintering, and migratory stopover sites for many species.

How quickly these distributional changes might occur is unknown. The rate of change depends on whether the limits to a given species' distribution are more closely

linked with climate, vegetation, or some other factor. The rate of change will also likely be tied to the rate of climate change itself. However, changes could occur relatively quickly. For example, one pilot study of 35 North American warbler species found that the range of occurrence of 20 percent of the species has shifted significantly north in the past 24 years, by an average of more than 65 miles. This is consistent with what we would expect as birds seek climates to which they are adapted.

Some Specific Changes

The following is a list of how the climatic summer ranges of some of NY's birds might change. These changes are specific to the climate conditions projected by one of the climate change models, that of the Canadian Climate Center. This bird list is not all-inclusive, and different models will produce somewhat different results. While the models cannot be used to say exactly how a given species' distribution might change, they can be used to give an idea as to the direction and potential magnitude of change in the suitable climatic range for the species. The following list of possible changes to NY's avifauna was prepared by comparing the maps of projected summer bird ranges with the maps and information found in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Andrle and Carroll 1988).

Species whose future climatic range may exclude New York in summer:* Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak (pictured).



*Species whose climatic summer ranges** in New York might contract:* Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Bobolink.

Species whose climatic summer ranges in New York might undergo little change: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-

headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Species whose climatic summer ranges in New York might expand: Acadian Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark.

Species whose future climatic summer ranges might include New York: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (pictured), Carolina Chickadee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bell's Vireo, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, and Great-tailed Grackle.

In summary, a high probability exists that global warming could cause changes in the climatic summer ranges of some of NY's birds. These changes could occur (and probably are occurring) relatively quickly and may have widespread ecological effects and possible economic effects. While some birds that are lost to NY may be found for the first time in another state, key vegetation and other habitat needs may not always be able to change fast enough or may be affected in other ways that will undermine the birds' long-term survival. Although we cannot say for certain what the exact magnitude of these effects will be, it is possible that bird communities may look quite different in the future if we do not begin to take meaningful action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming.



Global warming is of particular concern when viewed in concert with other already well-established population stresses (e.g., habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species). It is the combination of these stresses that will likely prove to be the greatest challenge to wildlife conservation in the 21st century. It is important to understand as much as possible about the responses of animals to a changing climate in order to more effectively manage and protect species and habitats.

For more information on how global warming may affect birds and what you can do to help address the problem, see *The Birdwatcher's Guide to Global Warming* at www.nwf.org/climate or www.abcbirds.org/climatechange.

*The scale of the models make them unable to take into account some topographic changes (e.g., moving up in elevation) and the possible existence of suitable microclimates (e.g., along rivers). Therefore, some of the species whose climatic ranges are projected to exclude an area (i.e., be extirpated) may be able to persist if a suitable microclimate is available, especially in higher montane areas.

**The climatic summer range of a species refers to that area that models project as having a suitable climate for a

species during the summer. The model results referred to here discuss how the climatic range may change. A species' actual distribution is usually tied to a multitude of factors. These include direct climatic effects (e.g., physiology) as well as indirect climatic effects (food, habitat). The rates of change of each of these is different. While the climate can change quickly, the ranges of some plants making up a species' habitat may take decades to centuries to move. Whether a species will be able to track these changes in its climatic ranges will depend on its physiological tolerances as well as on its dependence on these other factors.

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ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

The American Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter is coordinating the 18th annual New York State Beach Cleanup. Data on the debris collected on **September 18** will be sent to The Ocean Conservancy to help regulate pollution. In 2003, over 10,150 New Yorkers documented and removed 334,421 pounds of debris from 351 sites along lakes, rivers, bays, sound, and ocean. For information on nearby cleanups, contact ALS's Barbara Cohen at ALSBeach@aol.com or 718-471-2166, or visit www.alsnyc.org.

THE BROOKSIDE CLEANERS

On May 2, the participants at SSAS's Brookside Preserve cleanup were Joan, Paul, Casi, and Alexandra Butkereit; County Legislator David Denenberg (with jeans and without a photographer); Joe & Dolores Grupp; Betsy Gulotta; Therese Lucas; Wendy Murbach; George Peters; Michael Sperling; and John Zarudsky. We thank them all. Brookside is owned by Nassau County and managed by SSAS; it is located in Freeport/Baldwin, just north of the LIRR.

